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IV. — *English Words which have Gained or Lost an Initial Consonant by Attraction.*

By CHARLES P. G. SCOTT.

It was the original purpose of this paper, first, to define the phenomenon here called, in the lack of a more exact name, Attraction; secondly, to enumerate and classify the words affected by Attraction, partly to illustrate the phenomenon, but chiefly to exhibit and explain thereby the history of many words hitherto imperfectly exhibited, or of wholly unknown etymology; and, thirdly, to explain why Attraction has ultimately prevailed in some of the cases mentioned, and not in other cases apparently under like conditions. This last, indeed, was my primary motive.

But the systematic treatment of the subject has revealed so many words and classes of words affected by Attraction, many of them hitherto not known to be so affected, that I am constrained to confine this paper to the most familiar classes, and to defer the exhibition of the other classes, the ultimate explanation of the phenomena, and the philological inferences involved, to a second paper.

By Attraction, as here used, is meant an apparently accidental or unintentional transfer of a final consonant of a word, most commonly the article *an* or some definitiv, to the beginning of the following word, or of an initial consonant to the end of the preceding word, usually the article *a*. A typical example of the first kind is *an awl*, taken as *a nawl*; of the second kind, *a nauger*, taken as *an auger*. The examples, duly classified, are enumerated in this and the succeeding paper.

Of course there is no real "attraction" here, any more than in other instances of etymological or syntactical change conventionally so described; but the term will serve, as suggesting a blind motion of the phonetic elements involved. There is no exact name for the thing; but what it is, is clear. Considered as a blind motion of the sounds, it is Attraction

or Coalescence. Considerd as an act of the mind of the speaker, it is a misdivision of the elements of a phrase; an erroneous analysis of the constituent parts of a separable phrase; a missyllabification, or rather a misverbification, of a phrase, due, in nearly all cases, to variability in the article or definitiv. It is a blunder, but it is almost a creditable blunder; for it usually arises out of a desire to conform to analogy. The blunder lies in the choice of a wrong analogy. It arises and flourishes chiefly in provincial and colloquial speech, but in many cases it has become the rule in literary use, ousting the correct form of the word affected.

This paper is confined to cases in which words hav gaind or lost, temporarily or permanently, an initial *n*. There ar six classes:

I. Cases involving the indefinit article *an* or *a*. There ar two divisions, A and B.

A. The first division comprises the cases in which a noun, or an adjectiv with its noun, beginning with a vowel or *h*, has gaind an initial *n* from the preceding article *an*. The final *n* of *an* coalesces with the following vowel, leaving the clipt article *a*, with the noun adorn'd, like Bottom, with an adsciti-tious head.

I giv the words, literary and provincial, current and obsolete, in one alphabetic order, giving first the normal form, in its present spelling, and then showing the alteration it has sufferd; with proof quotations systematically added, in chronological order. The quotations for the normal form ar markt (*a*); those for the alterd form (*b*). I have been at great pains to ascertain and annex the dates. No quotation is complete without a date. But some of the seventeenth and eighteenth century ballads, and some of the nineteenth century poems, hav been left undated, owing to the difficulty of fixing the year without taking another year to fix it. Ballads shun dating, and few editors or publishers of second or later editions of nineteenth century works hav any notion of dates except that changing the date on the title-page is one way of making a "new edition." Nearly all the examples hav been taken directly from the original (printed) texts.

Words cited as examples, with definitions, hav been taken directly from the glossaries or dictionaries of the dates mentiond. When examples hav been taken at second hand, the source is indicated.¹ I giv only a small part of the quotations I hav collected. The quotations ar given, as all quotations should be given, in the spelling of the original. My own spelling is improved according to the principles and rules recommended by the Philological Association.

1. **Abbey**, ME. *abbay*, *abbaye*, *abbeye*, etc., from OF. *abaie*, LL. *abbatia*. ME. *an abbay* appears as *a nabbay*.

(a) po bad he him an *abbei*.

c 1305 *St. Dunstan* (*Early Eng. Poems* (1862), p. 39).

(b) Hec cenobium, *a nabbay*. c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 719, l. 14).

2. **Abece**, **absey**, ME. *abece*, *abyce*, *abicee*, *abcy*, *abse*, also *abc*, OF. *abece*, *abc*, L. *a be ce*, *abc*. We find *an abse* as *a nabse*.

(a) A bok . . . That men callyt *an abece*. a 1450 (?) *Rel. Antiq.* I. 63.
Abcy, hoc alphabetum i, hoc abcedarium ij. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 1.
And then comes answer like *an absey* booke.

1623 SHAKESPEARE, *King John*, i. 1. 196 (Fl. p. 2).

(b) Hoc alphabetum, *a nabse*. c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 719, l. 40).

3. **Abscess**. *An abscess* is turnd into *a nabsscess*. In provincial use the word is also taken as a plural, whence an assumed singular **absy*; and *an *absy* is taken as *a nabsy*, *a napsy*. This **absy* seems to hav been considerd also as a diminutiv; Middlesex folk hav made a new original **abs*, or, with the aspirate, *habs* or *haps*.

(a) At different times I have heard the sentences, "My daughter has *a habs* in her jaw"; "My husband has a bad *haps* under his arm."

1882 PALMER, *Folk-Etym.* p. 592.

(b) *Nabsy*. An abscess. 1854 BAKER, *Northampt. Gloss.* ii. 44. 1857 WRIGHT.
Napsy. An abscess. 1888 LOWSLEY, *Berkshire Words* (E.D.S.), p. 116.
Nabsscess, abscess. 1890 ROBERTSON, *Gloss. Glouc. Dial.* (E.D.S.), p. 101.

¹ The principal sources thus used ar: Jamieson (Jam.), *Etym. Dict. of the Scottish Language*, 2 vols., 1808; *Supplement*, 2 vols., 1825; ed. Longmuir, 1 vol., 1866; ed. Longmuir and Donaldson, 4 vols., 1879-1882; Nares (N.), *Glossary*, 1822; ed. Halliwell and Wright, 1857; Halliwell (H.), *Dict. of Archaic and Provincial Words*, 1847 (ed. 1878); Wright (Wr.), *Dict. of Obsolete and Provincial English*, 1857 (ed. 1886); Davies (D.), *Supplementary Eng. Glossary*, 1881; Palmer (P.), *Folk-Etymology, a Dict. of Corrupted Words*, 1882; *The Century Dictionary* (C.D.), 1889-1891; *The New English Dictionary* (N.E.D.), so far as issued (A-Con, E-Eve), 1884-1891. The last two works hav been used but little, the purpose, in giving quotations, being to ad to the information given by the standard dictionaries and to correct errors therein.

4. **Acorn**, ME. *acorn*, *acoron*, and a score of other forms; AS. *æcern*. ME. *an acorn* is found as *a nacoron*.

- (a) *An acorne*, hec glans. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 3.
 (b) Hec glans, -dis, *a nacoron*. c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 716, l. 8).

5. **Acre**, formerly *aker*, ME. *aker*, AS. *æcer*; ME. also *acre*, after OF. *acre*, ML. *acra*, from Eng. ME. *an aker* appears as *a nakyre*.

- (a) *Acra*, . . . an^{ce} *an aker* of lond.
 c 1450 *Lat.-Eng. Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 561, l. 7).
 I have *an aker* of good ley land,
 Which lyeth low by yon sea strand.
 a 1800 *The Elfin Knight* (Child, *Ballads*, i. 129).
 (b) Hec *acra*, *a nakyre*. c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 737, l. 18).

6. **Adze**, *adz*, formerly *ads*, *addice*, *addis*, etc., dial. *adge*, *edge*, *eat*, *eitch*, *eetch*; ME. *adys*, *adese*, AS. *adese*. We find *an ads*, *an adge*, taken as *a nads*, *a nadge*. So *a nax* for *an ax* (see Ax).

- (a) A carpenter stretchede forthe a reule, he fourmyde it with an *adese*.
 1388 WICLIF, Is. xlv. 13.
Azuéla, f., a little axe, or hatchet, a coopers *ads*, an axe.
 1623 MINSHEU, *Dict. in Span. and Eng.*
Adge, *Addice*. 1828 [CARR], *Craven Gloss.* i. 3.
 (b) An *ax* and *a nads*, to make troffe for thy hogs.
 1580 TUSSEY, *Five Hundred Pointes* (E.D.S.), p. 36.
Nadge, An *addice*. 1828 [CARR], *Craven Gloss.* ii. 2.

7. **Aghendole**, *aighendole*, also *ackendole*, *haughendole*, *haughendo*, corrupt provincial forms for what would be regularly **eightendole* or **eightendeal*, ME. *ey3tynde*, an eighth part, namely of a coom, or other mesure. The application varies. *An aghendole*, *an ackendole*, has become in local use *a nackendole*.

- (a) *Ey3tynde*, mesure (*eyhtyndyl*, K. *eyghtydell*, J.W.), Satum.
 1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 137.
 She should yearely have one *aghen-dole* of meale . . .
 1613 POTT, *Discoverie of Witches*, p. 23 (in *Lanc. Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 154).
Aighendole (*s. a local word*). A measure in Lancashire containing seven quarts. 1775 ASH. (Whence in 1847 HALLIWELL.)
 (b) *Nackendole*. Eight pounds of meal. *Lanc.* It is supposed to be a kneading-dole, the quantity usually taken for kneading at one time. Often pronounced *aghendole*. 1847 HALLIWELL.

Nackendole, or rather **neightendele*, appears to have been further contracted, in the hurry of business, to *nail*, *nale*.

- Nail* of Beef, *Sf.* [Suffolk] eight pounds. 1692 COLES, *Eng. Dict.*
Nail. Eight pounds, generally applied to articles of food. 1847 HALLIWELL.
Nail. A weight of eight pounds.
 1887 PARISH and SHAW, *Dict. Kentish Dial.* (E.D.S.), p. 106.
Nail, *nale*, *nall*, *s.* A weight of 7 lbs., used for wool.
 1887 DONALDSON, *Suppl. to Jamieson's Scottish Dict.*, p. 171.

8. **Aglet**, ME. *aglet*, *aglott*, *agglot*, etc., from OF. *aiguilette*, etc. *An aglet* appears as a *naglet*.

- (a) *Agglot*, or *an aglet*, to lace wyth alle. Acus, aculus (acula P.).
 1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 8.
 (b) Hoc mominlum, a *naglott*. c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 734, l. 37).
 Thou mayest buy as much love for a *naglet* in the middle of Scotland as
 thou shalt winne by thy complaints.
 1633 *Dux Grammaticus*. (P. p. 581.)

9. **Ail**¹, a pain, sickness, disease; compare early ME. *eil*, *eile*, *eyle*, injury, harm; ME. *eil*, *eile*, *eyle*, AS. *egle*, painful. *An ail* is probably the original form of a *nail* (*nail*²), given as a Scotch term for "a particular pain in the forehead." I suppose a "nail" may be felt in other parts. It appears from the second quotation that a Scotch damsel named Mawkin had an "ail" in her "hairt," and "sum pairte" of it at length crept into Robin's. Mawkin's previous discourse indicates that there was no weakness in her forehead. *Illi robur et aes triplex*.

- (a) The blake cloð deð lesse *eile* to þen eien. c 1230 *Ancren Riwele*, p. 50.
 Be that sum pairte of Mawkynis *ail*
 Outthrow his hairt cowd creip;
 He fallowit hir fast thair till assaill,
 And till hir tuke gode keip.
 c 1475 HENRYSON, *Robene and Makyne*, l. 77. (Donaldson, *Suppl.*)
Ails, s. pl. Evils. 1875 ROBINSON, *Whithy Gloss*. (E.D.S.), p. 2.
 (b) *Nail*, s. A particular pain in the forehead. 1866 (and 1880) JAMIESON.

10. **Ail**², a beard of grain; ME. *eile*, *eyle*, *eizle*, AS. *egl*. *An ail*, dial. *an oil*, has become a *nail*, a *noil*.

- (a) (1) *Arista*, an^{ee} *an eyle*.
 c 1450 *Lat.-Eng. Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 565, l. 34).
 Swift as the swallow, or that Greekish nymph
 That seem'd to overfly the *eyles* of corn.
 1590 PEELE, *Polyhymnia* (Wks. ed. Dyce), p. 571.
Ails, s. pl., beards of barley.
 1876 GOWER, *Surrey Provincialisms* (E.D.S.), p. 80.

Also in various dialectal forms, *hail*, *oil*, *hoil*, *ile*, *avel*, *havel*; all usually in the plural.

- (2) *Barley-hailes*. The spears of barley. *South*. 1847 HALLIWELL, p. 143.
 (3) *Oils*. 1875 PARISH, *Dict. Sussex Dialect*; 1880 BRITTEN, *Old Country and Farming Words* (E.D.S.), p. 65. (P. p. 263.)
 (4) *Hoils*. The beards of barley. *Dorset*. 1847 HALLIWELL, p. 454.
Hoile. The beard or stalk of barley or other corn.
 1887 PARISH and SHAW, *Dict. Kentish Dial.* (E.D.S.), p. 76.
 (5) *Iles*. Ails or beards of barley.
 1736 PEGGE, *Alphabet of Kenticisms* (repr. E.D.S.), p. 34;
 1887 PARISH and SHAW, *Dict. Kentish Dial.* (E.D.S.), p. 83.
 (6) *Avel*. The awn or beard of barley. *East*. 1847 HALLIWELL, p. 115.
 (7) *Havel*. As *Avel*. 1847 HALLIWELL, p. 438.

In an *ail*, dial. an *oil*, taken as a *nail*, a *noil*, I find the origin of the hitherto unsolved *noil*, now chiefly in the plural *noils*, as a technical term for 'short pieces or knots of wool broken off in the process of combing'; also 'pieces of waste silk,' the term for 'short refuse pieces from grain' being easily transfered to 'short refuse pieces from wool or silk.' This etymology is supported by comparing the other form *nail*, and the earliest forms, which have hitherto been overlooked, with the forms of *ail*:

- (a) *ail, aile, ayle, eile, eyle, ile, yle, oil, hoil.*
 (b) *nail, nayle, nyle, nyl, noil, noyle.*

The following examples include the earliest I have found.

- (b) *Nyle* of wulle (*nyl* or *wyl*, S. *nyle* or wulle, H.). Nullipensa, plur.
 1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 356.

[The variations show uncertainty on the part of the scribes, proving, as we should expect from the etymology here proposed, that the form was unfamiliar at that time.]

Nayle of wolle [no French equivalent given]. 1530 PALSGRAVE, p. 247.
 No person shall put any *noyles*, thrums, &c., or other deceivable thing into any broad woollen cloth. 1621 *Stat. Jac. I* (cit. *N. & Q.* 6th Ser. x. 86).
 New cammas of course *nowells*.

Trelawny Papers (cit. *N. & Q.* 6th Ser. x. 86).

The waft was chiefly spun by old women, and that only from backings or *nails*, as they were not able to card the wool.

1791-1799 *Statist. Acc.* (Aberdeen) xix. 207. (Jam. 1808.)

Backings, s. pl. Refuse of wool or flax, or what is left after dressing it.

1808 JAMIESON.

Nails, s. pl. The refuse of wool.

1808 JAMIESON.

Noils, coarse refuse locks of wool, fit for making mops.

1830 FORBY. (Way, p. 356.)

Noils. Coarse locks of wool. *East.*

1847 HALLIWELL.

Noils. . . the term is never applied to any kind of wool, in its natural state; but, in the process of combing, the short wool that will not pull out to any length, and is consequently left on the comb, after the slither is drawn, is called *Noils*.

1854 BAKER, *Northampton Gloss.* i. 61.

Noils, coarse locks of wool; 'dag-locks.'

1881 EVANS, *Leic. Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 201.

11. *Ailbourn, ailburn*, formerly *eylebourn*, an intermittent brook or spring; originally supposed, as the quotations from Warkworth (1473) and the *Gentleman's Magazine* (1777) indicate, to betoken sickness or pestilence; from *ail*¹ + *bourn, burn*. See especially the quotation from Warkworth. As an *ail* has become a *nail*, so an *ailbourn* has become a *nailbourn*.

- (a) There is a famous *Eylebourn* which rises in this parish [Petham], and sometimes runs but a little way before it falls into the ground.

1719 HARRIS, *Hist. of Kent*, p. 240. (Pegge.)

Kilburn [1659] saith that A.D. 1472 here (at Lewisham) newly broke out of the earth a great spring; by which I suppose he means an *Eylebourn*, or *Nailbourn*, as the vulgar call it.

1719 *Id.* p. 179.

- (b) Also in the same yere Womere watere ranne hugely, withe suche abundance of watere, that nevyr manne sawe it renne so moche afore this tyme. Womere is callede the woo watere: for Englyschmen, whonne

thei dyd fyrst inhabyde this lond, also sone as thei see this watere renne, thei knewe wele it was a tokene of derthe, or of pestylence, or of grete batayle; wherfor thei callede it Womere; (for *we* as [is] in Englysche tonge woo, and *mere* is called watere, whiche signifyeth woo-watere;) for alle that tyme thei sawe it renne, thei knewe welle that woo was comynge to Englonde. And this Wemere is vij. myle frome Sent Albons, at a place callede Markayate; and this Wemere ranne at every felde afore specyfede, and nevere so hugely as it dyd this yere, and ranne styll to the xij. day of June next yere folowyng. Also ther has ronned dyverse suche other wateres, that betokenethe lykewyse; one at Lavesham [Lewisham] in Kent, and another byside Canturbury called *Naylborne*, and another at Croydone in Suthsex [Surrey], and another vij. myle a thysyde the castelle of Dodley, in the place called Hungerevale; that whenne it betokenethe batayle it rennyng foule and trouble watere; and whenne betokenyeth derthe or pestylence it rennyth as clere as any watere.

1473 WARKWORTH, *Chronicle* (Camden Soc.), p. 23.

Nailbourn.

1719 HARRIS, *Hist. of Kent*, p. 179. [See above.]

A Nailbourn . . . a torrent which flows only now and then, or once in a few years. Now, when these torrents broke out, they were supposed to betoken famines, sicknesses, and deaths, chiefly I presume sicknesses; whence I conjecture there is a Crasis in the case, a *Nailbourn* being in fact an *Ailbourn*, as the forerunner of *Ails* or diseases. It is written, however, *Eylebourn* by Dr. Harris, p. 240, 23, 411, and so Philipot gives it, p. 42, which perhaps may be a corruption of *Ailbourn*; but as these desultory torrents often abound with small eels, it is possible they might take their names from thence, quasi *Eelbournes*. But there will still be a Crasis in *Nailbourn*.

1777 *Gent. Mag.*, July, p. 321.

Nailburn. A kind of temporary brook or intermittent land-spring, very irregular in its visitation and duration. There are several nailburns in Kent. One may be mentioned below Barham Downs, which sometimes ceases to flow for two or three years, and then breaks out very copiously, and runs into the lesser Stour at Bridge. Warkworth, *Chronicle*, p. 24, gives a very curious account of these singular streams, and mentions one "byside Canturbury called *Naylborne*," which seems to be that above alluded to.

1847 HALLIWELL.

Nailbourn. An intermittent stream. . . . "Why! the nailbourn's begun to run a'ready."

1887 PARISH and SHAW, *Dict. of Kentish Dial.* (E.D.S.), p. 106.

12. **Alb**, ME. *albe*, *aube*, *awbe*, from OF. *aube*, from L. *alba*.

An *awbe* is found as a *nawbe*, a *nobe*.

(a) *Alba*, an^{ce} *an awbe*. c 1450 *Lat.-Eng. Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 562, l. 34).

(b) *Hec alba*, a *nawbe*. c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 721, l. 18).
And evere on that bare them had a *nobe* or elles a surples.

1554 MACHYN, *Diary* (Camden Soc.), p. 62.

13. **Alder-tree**, dial. *aller-tree*, *ellertree*, ME. *ellyrtre*; from *alder*, dial. *eller* (ME. *aller*, *ellyr*, AS. *alor*, *aler*, *alr*), + *tree*. I find ME. an *ellyrtre* as a *nellyrtre*.

(a) An *Ellyrtre*, alnus; alnicetum est locus vbi crescunt. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 113.
Aulne, *Aune*. An *Aller*, or *Alder tree*. 1611 COTGRAVE.

(b) *Hec ulnus* [read *alnus*], a *nellyrtre*.

c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 716, l. 21).

14. **Alp**, a bullfinch; a provincial word found also in the forms *aup* (*aupe*, *awpe*), **aub* (*awbe*), *olp*, *olf* (*olph*), **oup* (*owpe*), *ope*,

and with the aspirate **hope*, *hoop*. An *ope* (an **oup*) has long been taken as a *nope* (a *noup*, a *nowpe*).

(a) In many places were nyghtyngales alpes, fynches, and wodewales.

c 1400 *Rom. of the Rose*, l. 659.

Alpe, a bryde. Ficedula.

1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 10.

Ficedula, a wodewale or an *alpe*.

c 1460 *Medulla Gram.* (Way, *Prompt. Parv.* p. 10.)

Fecedula, an *alpe*.

a 1500 (?) *MS. Bodl.* 604, f. 31 (*Wr.* p. 59).

Be als just to *awppis* and owlis,

As unto pacokkis, papingais, or crennis.

1503 DUNBAR, *The Thrissil and the Rois*, 18. (*P.* p. 176.)

The tatling *Awbe* doth please some fancie wel,

And some like best the Byrde as black as cole.

1576 GASCOIGNE, *The Complaint of Philomene* (ed. Arber, 1869), p. 88.

Fraylezillo, a bird with blacke feathers on the head, like linget, called of some, an *Owpe*. Also a little frier.

1623 MINSHEU, *Dict. in Span. and Eng.* p. 129.

Alp, or *Nope*, s., a bulfinch. I first took notice of this word in Suffolk, but find since that it is used in other counties, almost generally all over England. 1691 RAY, *Collection of Eng. Words* (repr. E.D.S.), p. 77.

An *Alpe* or Bullfinch. Rubicilla.

1693 *Linguae Romanae Dict. Luculentum Novum*.

Alp or *Olph*. The bull-finch. Also *Blood-alf*, and *Black-cap*. Cocker says *Alp* is a north country name for this bird.

1823 MOOR, *Suffolk Words*, p. 7.

Olph. The bull-finch, pronounced sometimes *Ope*. This interesting bird is also called *Nope*, which see; and *Alp*. 1823 MOOR, *Suffolk Words*, p. 259.

Nope. I am told that this is a Suffolk name of the bull-finch, but I never heard it. We call it *Alp* or *Olph*, and by other names. See *Alp*.

1823 MOOR, *Suffolk Words*, p. 254.

[Moor notes the change from an *olp* ("if pronounced *ope*, as it sometimes is") to a *nope*; p. 255.]

Alp, a bullfinch.

1875 NODAL and MILNER, *Lanc. Gloss.* p. 9.

Also with an aspiration, *hoop*; a different word and bird from the *hoop*, the hoopoe.

Rubicilla, a bull-finch, a *hoop*, and bull spink, a *nope*.

1667 MERRETT, *Pinax*, p. 176. (N.)

Hoop, s. A Bullfinch.

1825 JENNINGS, *Somerset Gloss.* p. 47.

Hoop. The bullfinch: So called from the white mark on his neck.

1868 HUNTLEY, *Gloss. of the Cotswold Dialect*, p. 44.

Hoop. The bullfinch. [Common.]

1890 ROBERTSON, *Gloss. Glouc. Dial.* (E.D.S.), p. 71.

Also in composition :

(1) *Blood-alf*.

1823 MOOR, *Suffolk Words*, p. 7.

Blood-olph. A bullfinch.

1830 FORBY; 1847 HALLIWELL.

(2) *Green-olf*. A green grosbeak.

1830 FORBY; 1847 HALLIWELL, p. 416 (s.v. *greeney*).

(3) *Cockhoop*. A bull finch.

1847 HALLIWELL; 1857 WRIGHT.

(b) The red sparrow [reed-sparrow?], the *nope*, the red-breast and the wren.

1613 DRAYTON, *Polyolbion*, xiii. p. 915. (N.)

Chocheperre. A kind of *Nowpe*, or Bull-finch, that feeds most on the kernels of Cheristones.

1611 (and 1673) COTGRAVE.

Bull-finch, *Alpe*, *Nope*.

1668 WILKINS, *Real Character*, p. 150.

Alp, *Nope*, Bullfinch, *Sf.* [Suffolk].

1692 COLES, *Eng. Dict.*

A *Nope*, a bird. Rubicilla. 1693 *Linguae Romanae Dict. Luculentum Novum*.

Also in composition :

Tom-noup. The titmouse. *Salop.*

1847 HALLIWELL.

15. Altar, ME. *alter, auter, awter*, etc., from OF. *auter, alter*, L. *altare*. ME. *an awtyr* appears as a *nawtyr*.

(a) *An Awtyr*, ara . . . altare [etc.].

1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 16.

(b) *Ara, nawter.*

c 1400 *Metr. Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 626; printed "(a) nawter").

Hoc altare, a *nawtyr*. Hoc superaltare, a *hye awtyr*.

c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 720, l. 14 and 15).

16. Altar-cloth, ME. *auter-cloth, awtyr-cloth*, etc. ME. *an awtyr-cloth* is found written a *nawtyr-cloth*.

(a) *An Awtyr cloth*, linthium.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 16.

(b) Hoc lurthium [read *linthium*], a *nawtyrcloth*.

c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 721, l. 14).

A *nauter cloth*. 1558 *Cornwall Church Acc.* (Stratton). (Peacock, *Manley and Corringham Gloss.*, E.D.S. 1889, p. 369.)

17. Ambry, dial. *aumbry, aumry*, ME. multiformly *almry, aumbry, amerie, almary*, etc., from OF. *almarie, armarie*, etc., from L. *armarium*. ME. *an almry* appears as a *nalmry*.

(a) *Almery* of mete kepynge, or a saue for mete. Cibutum.

1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 10.

(b) Hoc armorium, a *nalmry*. c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 726, l. 41).

18. Amite, ME. *amyt, amyte*, etc., from OF. *amit*, from L. *amicus*. ME. *an amyt* appears as a *namyt*.

(a) Thou schalt change hem as *an amyte*.

c 1382 WICLIF, *Heb.* i. 12.

Hic amictus, A^{ce} a *amyte*. c 1475 *Pict. Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 755, l. 24).

(b) Hic amictus, a *namyt*. c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 721, l. 19).

19. Anbury, also anberry and ambury, also anglebery, angleberry, anleberry, etc., a spongy wart on horses or oxen; also a disease of turnips. We find *an anberry* as a *nanberry*. So *an anleberry* is taken as a *nannleberry*.

(a) Moro . . . Also a Mulberie-tree. Also a wart [1659 wartle] in a horse called an *Auburie* [read *Anburie*].

1598 (1611 and 1659) FLORIO.

Selfo, a warte in a horse called an *Auburie* [read *Anburie*].

1598 (and 1611) FLORIO.

Selfo, a wart in horses which our Farriers call an *Arburie* [read *Anburie*].

1659 FLORIO, ed. Torriano.

Hanbury. The disease to which growing turnips are subject, caused by insects; it shews itself in small globular excrescences on their skin. They in this state are said to have got the *han-bury* or *anberry*. It is, I believe, the same that in the north is termed five-fingers—so that *hand-berry*, may be the term; though one does not see exactly why.

1823 MOOR, *Suffolk Words*, p. 162.

Anberry. A disease in turnips; described under *Hanbury*, which see—but this is, I believe, the more correct name for it. (etc.)

1823 MOOR, *Suffolk Words*, App. p. 504.

Anberry.

1847 HALLIWELL; 1854 BAKER.

Angleberry. A sore or kind of hang-nail under the claw or hoof of an animal. *North.* 1847 HALLIWELL.

- (b) *Nanberry*, a N. W. Lincolnshire word for *an anberry*. 1882 PALMER, p. 581.

Nannleberries. See *anberry*. 1847 HALLIWELL.

20. Anchor¹, formerly, and properly, *anker*, ME. *anker*, AS. *ancor*, from L. *ancora*. ME. *an anker* appears as *a nankyre*.

- (a) Abouten his hals *an anker* god. c 1300 *Havelok*, l. 670.
An Ankyr of a schyppe, *ancora*. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 10.
 (b) Hec *ancora*, *a nankyre*. c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 737, l. 33).

21. Andiron, ME. *awndyren*, *awndyrn*, *aundyre*, and a mob of other forms; from OF. *andier*. ME. *an awndyrn* appears as *a nawndyrn*.

- (a) *Awnderne* (*awndyryn* K. *awndyrn* P.). Andena, ipoporgium. 1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 19.
 (b) Hoc ipopirgum, *a nawndyrn*. c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 728, l. 8).

22. Angnail, now commonly *agnail*, formerly also *agnel*; ME. *agnayle*, *agnaille*, AS. *angnægl*. *An angnail*, *an agnail*, is taken in provincial use as *a nangnail*, *a nagnail*.

- (a) With the shell of a pomegarned, they purge away *agnaylles* and such hard swellings. 1568 TURNER, *Herbal*. (Wr. p. 39).
Agnail, a point of detached skin on the back of the fingers and thumbs near the nail. 1881 EVANS, *Leic. Words* (E.D.S.), p. 89.
Angnail, Northamptoniensibus est Clavus pedum, gemursa, pterugium. 1744 LYE, ed. Junius.
 (b) *Nangnail*. A hangnail. *Var. dial.* 1847 HALLIWELL.
Nagnail. 1882 NODAL and MILNER, *Lanc. Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 196.
Nagnail, *Nangnail*, s. An ingrown nail on the toe; West of S.
 1887 DONALDSON, *Suppl. to Jamieson's Scottish Dict.*, p. 312.

Popular sophistication has turnd *agnail* also into *angernail*, and *hangnail*. Another form is *thangnail* (*the angnail*?) (Wr.). I find even *wragnail*:

Adriánes, cornes in the feet or toes, called of some *wragnailes*.

1623 MINSHEU, *Dict. in Span. and Eng.*

23. Ankle, ME. *acle*, *ankyl*, *anclowe*, AS. *anclēow*, *onclēow*. ME. *an ankyl* becomes *a nankyl*.

- (a) Hec cauilla, A^e *ankylle*. c 1425 *Lat.-Eng. Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 637, l. 10).
 Hec cavilla, A^{ce} *a hankyl*. c 1475 *Pictorial Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 751, l. 4).
 (b) Hec cavilla, *a nankyle*. c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 678, l. 38).

24. Anlace, ME. *anlace*, *anlas*, *anelace*, *anelas*, ML. *anelacius*. We find *an anlas* taken as *a nanlas*, *an nanlas*.

- (a) *An anlas* [var. *anlaas*, *anelas*], and a gipser al of silk,
 Heng at his gerdul, whit as morne mylk.
 c 1386 CHAUCER, *C. T. Prol.* l. 357.

Bot Arthur with *ane anlace* egerly smyttez,
And hittez euer in the hulke up to be hilttez.

c 1440 *Morte Arthure* (E.E.T.S. 1865), l. 1148.

(b)

Als scharpe as a thorn

An nanlas of stele.

c 1420 *Anturs of Arther* (Camden Soc. 1842), xxx. 13.

25. **Antony grice**, the same as *Anthony pig*, *Tantony pig*. We find an *Antony grice* taken in ME. as a *nantyny gryce*.

(b)

And rene þou not fro hous to hous

lyke a *nantyny gryce*.

c 1450 *The Good Wyf Wold a Pylgremage*, l. 15 (E.E.T.S. 1869, p. 39).

26. **Ape**, ME. *ape*, AS. *apa*. In ME. an *ape* appears, early and often, as a *nape*.

(a)

Som tyme lyk a man or lyk an Ape [ver. *an hape* 1 ms.].

c 1386 CHAUCER. *Friar's Tale*, l. 163. (Six-text, D. 1464.)

Make them to lye and mowe like an *ape*.

c 1485 *Killing of the Children*, l. 296 (*Digby Myst.*, N.S.S. p. 12).

Hec simia, A^{ce} a *hape*. c 1475 *Pictorial Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 759, l. 24).

Caparrone, a pugge, an *ape*, a munkie, a babuine, a gull, a ninnie, a mome,
a sot. 1598 FLORIO.

Scimia, a munkie or an *ape*. 1598 FLORIO.

(b)

Fra þan i tell him for a *nape*.

c 1300 *Cursor Mundi* (Cotton MS.) (E.E.T.S.), l. 9017.

Hec simea, A^e *nape*. c 1425 *Lat.-Eng. Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 639, l. 21).

He lokis lurkand like an *nape*. c 1430 *York Plays*, xxix. l. 107 (p. 258).

A *nafys* mow men sayne he makes. c 1440 *Boke of Curtasye*. (Way, p. 346.)

Hec simia, A^{ce} a *nappe*. c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 699, l. 40).

The form *nape* may seem to confirm a notion which is current in all the dictionaries. The word *jackanapes*, formerly often written *jack-an-apes*, is always refered, for the second element, to *ape*. Johnson (1755) explains it as "*jack* and *ape*," and so the rest until Skeat (1882), who endeavors to give a rational explanation of the second syllable. *Jackanapes*, he says, is "put for *Jack o' apes*, with the insertion of *n* in imitation of the ME. *an* (really equivalent to *on*), and for the avoiding of hiatus see (Morris, *Hist. Outlines of Eng. Accidence*, p. 195); so that the word meant 'a man who exhibited performing apes.'" But this alleged sense is not to be found; and, singular as it may seem, the word has no etymological connection at all with *ape*, with which it has always been associated in sense.

In its proper use the word was applied to an ape itself; meaning a performing ape, or an ape on exhibition. In this use it must have existed before the year 1450, when it first emerges, in a satirical use, applied to a person (see below). The quotations for the meaning 'ape' which I have found are later. It is in keeping with the unlucky career of the word that in only two of these quotations (1611 Florio, and 1668 Wilkins) is the meaning 'ape' clear on the surface. In all

the others it would be plausible, tho erroneous, to explain the word as referring to a person—'a fantastic fellow,' 'a buffoon or harlequin.'

He grins and he gapes,
As it were *Jack Napes*.

a 1529 SKELTON, *Poems*, p. 160. (Todd.)

He played *Jacke-a-napes*, swearynge by his tenne bones.

1543 BALE, *Yet a Course at the Romish Foxe*, fol. 92. (Todd.)

The priest whē he goeth to masse . . . playeth out the rest vnder silence,
with signes and profers, with noddying, beckyng, and mowyng, as it were
Jack-an-apes. a 1536 TYNDALE, *Works*, p. 132. (Richardson.)

For euery priest maketh them of a sundry maner & many more madly then
the gestures of *jackanapes*.

a 1536 TYNDALE, *Works*, p. 283. (Richardson.)

Then steppeth forth Sir Laurence Loiterer, and he plays *Jack monkey* at
the altar, with his turns and half turns, and a hundred toys more.

a 1563 BALE (in Strype, *Memorials*, an. 1553). (Richardson.)

If there be a bear or a bull to be baited in the afternoon, or a *jackanapes*
to ride on horseback, the minister hurries the service over in a shameful
manner, in order to be present at the show.

1572 CARTWRIGHT, *Admonition to Parliament*. (Strutt.)

Jacke-Napes, forsooth, did chafe because I eate my slave the bat.

1592 WARNER, *Albion's England*. (Wr. p. 598.)

I believe he hath robb'd a *jackanapes* of his gesture; marke but his coun-
tenance; see how he mops, and how he mowes, and how he strains his
lookes!

1606 RICHE, *Faultes, &c.*, p. 7. (Latham.)

Monina, a pretty pug or *iakeanapes*.

1611 FLORIO [not in ed. 1598; or *iakeanapes* omitted in ed. 1659].

Like a come-a-loft *jacanapes*.

1616 SHELDON, *Miracles of Antichrist*, p. 24. (Todd.)

If I might buffet for my Loue, or bound my Horse for her fauours, I could
lay on like a Butcher, and sit like a *Jack an Apes*, neuer off.

1623 SHAKESPEARE, *Hen. V. v. 2.* 145 (F¹ p. 93).

I will be like a *Jacke-an-Apes* also, to burne the Knight with my Taber.

1623 SHAKESPEARE, *M.W.W. iv. 4.* 67 (F¹ p. 56).

He that gallops his horse on Blackstone-edge

By chance may catch a fall;

My lord Mount Eagles bears be dead,

His *jackanapes* and all.

1661 *Lancashire Song*, l. 20, in *Wit and Drollery* (Ritson, *Anc. Songs*, p. 189).

Clawed Beasts not rapacious . . . Man-like . . . bigger kind; either that
which hath a short tail: or that which hath no tail.

1 { Baboon, Drill.
Ape, *Jackanapes*.

Lesser kind; having a long tail.

2 { Monkey, Marmoset.
Sloth, Haut, Ay.

1668 WILKINS, *Real Character*, p. 158.

The word came to be applied in contempt, like *monkey*, to a man or boy impertinent in speech, offensiv in manner, or ridiculous for finical or gaudy apparel; or in mere blind vituperation. It is so used in the earliest instance I hav found, in a satirical ballad of the middle of the fifteenth century.

Jack Napes wolde one the see a maryner to ben,

With his cloge and his cheyn, to seke more tresour.

c 1450 *On the Death of the Duke of Suffolk* (Wright, *Polit. Poems*, 1861, ii. 232; Ritson, *Ancient Songs*, p. 56).

For <i>Jac Napes</i> soule Placebo and Dirige.	<i>Id.</i> l. 8.
For <i>Jac Nape</i> soule Placebo and Dirige.	<i>Id.</i> l. 16, 32, and 56.
For <i>Jac Nape</i> soule, De profundis clamavi.	<i>Id.</i> l. 24.
And in especial for <i>Jac Napes</i> , that euer was wyly,	
For his soule Placebo and Dirige.	<i>Id.</i> l. 47.

Ritson says, "We must be content to remain in the dark with respect to the origin or application of the nickname of *Jac Nape* (Jackanapes)," but the reference to the clog and chain — compare :

pou art lyke *an ape teyzed with a clogge*.
c 1440 *Boke of Curtasye* (Babees Book, p. 302),

and the use of *Nape* alone in another line of the same poem —

That brought forthe *confitebor*, for alle this *Napes* reson (l. 26) —

make it clear that *Jac Napes*, *Jac Nape* is a mere term of vituperation, meaning in the author's mind, 'Jack Ape,' 'Jack Monkey.'

Down, *Jack-an-apes*, from thy feign'd royalty.
 1599 MARSTON, *Scourge of Villany*, bk. iii. sat. 9. (Todd.)
 Next cometh fashions *Jack-an-apes*,
 A gull compos'd of pride,
 That hath his goodness in good cloathes,
 And nothing good beside.

1611 ROWLANDS, *Knave of Clubs*. (Wr. p. 598.)

Cai. By-gar, me vill kill de Priest, for he speake for a *Jack-an-ape* to Anne Page.

1623 SHAKESPEARE, *M. W. W.* ii. 3. 87 (F¹ p. 48).

Caius. You *Jack 'Nape* : giue-a this Letter to Sir Hugh, by gar it is a shal-
 lenge : I will cut his troat in the Parke and I will teach a scuruy *Jack-a-*
nape Priest to meddle, or make : — you may be gon.

1623 SHAKESPEARE, *M. W. W.* i. 4. 113 (F¹ p. 43).

That *Iacke-an-apes* with scarfes [Parolles].

1623 SHAKESPEARE, *All's Well*, iii. 5. 88 (F¹ p. 243).

Iacke-an-Apes. 1623 SHAKESPEARE, *Cymb.* ii. 1. 4 (F¹ p. 375).

Jackanips. An affected puppyish young man. What is now called a
Dandy. In my younger days we used to call these puppies *macaronys*.

1823 MOOR, *Suffolk Words*, p. 182.

Jack-a-napes. A conceited coxcomb. 1854 BAKER, *Northampt. Gloss.* i. 353.

Hence the attributiv use :

And then he showed how I suld have done, — and that I suld have held
 up my hand to my brow, as if the grandeur of the King and his horse-
 graith thegither had casten the glaiks in my een, and mair *jackanape*
 tricks I suld hae played. 1822 SCOTT, *Fortunes of Nigel*, iii.

The term became so familiar as to giv use to a variant *Fohnanapes*, and even to a feminin *Fane of apes*, the last showing clearly the belief that *Fackanapes* stood for **Fack-of-apes*.

Rol. If I were at leisure, I would make you shew tricks now.

Dund. Do I look like a *Fohnnanapes* ?

1633 SHIRLEY, *Bird in a Cage*, ii. 1. (C.D.)

Poliph. But we shall want a woman.

Grac. No, here's *Fane of apes* shall serve.

1624 MASSINGER, *Bondman*, iii. 3. (C.D.)

Shakespeare makes Dr. Caius make it *Fohn Ape* :

Cai. By-gar, you are de Coward : de Iack dog : *Iohn Ape.*

1623 SHAKESPEARE, *M. W. W.* iii. 1. 85 (F¹ p. 48).

I think the true form of the word is *Fack-a-Napes* or *Fack a Napes*; that is, *Fack o' Napes*. It means 'Jack of Naples,' or more generally 'Jack of Italy,' or 'Italian Jack.' *Fack* alone was a common term for an ape or monkey (we stil call almost any monkey *Focko*); and *Fack a Napes*, 'Jack of Naples' or 'Italy,' seems to hav arisen as a popular humorous term for the fantastic anthropoid (*ἄνθρωπος* = "every *man-jack* of them"), familiar to the gaping crowd, who saw in his gaudy dress and lively manners a similarity to the mountebanks, cantabanks, apewards, bearwards, and other 'Italian Jacks' of the day, and especially the very 'Italian Jack' who led the ape about — the apeward himself.

The proof of this etymology wil appear on considering the elements separately — *Fack* and *anapes*.

The word *Fack* was often used with reference to Italians. It is a curious coincidence that the American word *Dago*, etymologically the same as *Fack*, though originally applied to Portugese (Pg. *Diego*, Lat. *Jacobus*), is now more commonly applied to the more numerous Italians.

Theyr Secretarye, called, as I remember, *Jacques Geffray, an Italian.*

c 1596 SPENSER, *Ireland*, Globe ed., p. 656.

Mer. Come, come, thou art as hot a *Iacke* in thy mood, as any in *Italie.*

1623 SHAKESPEARE, *R. & J.* iii. 1. 11 (F¹ p. 64).

Zane, the name of John [1611 in some parts of Lombardy, but commonly vsed for] a sillie Iohn, a gull, a noddie. Vsed also for a simple vice, clowne, foole or simple fellowe in a plaie or comedie.

1598 FLORIO.

Zannuolo, a sillie Iohn, a poore Iohn, a *iacke.*

1598 FLORIO.

The precise phrase *anapes* for a *Napes*, here supposed to exist in *jackanapes*, is recognized in another term *fustian-anapes*, properly written *fustian a Napes*.

His dooblet sleevez of black woorsted; upon them a payr of poynets of tawny chamblet, laced along the weast wyth blu threedden points; a wealt toward the hand of *fustian anapes.*

1575 LANEHAM, *Account of the Queen's Entertainment at Killingworth Castle.* (Wr. p. 68.)

Vestis heteromalla lanea, ἐτερόμαλλος ἐσθῆς. De tripe, de chamois velouté. A garment of *fustian anapes*, of vellure, of tuft mockado.

1585 NOMENCLATOR. (Wr. p. 68.)

[Wright explains *Anapes* as "cloth."]

Tripe: f. A Tripe; (In which sence it is most vsed plurally;) also, the bellie, or paunch; also, Valure, Irish Tuftaffata, *Fustian an apes* [1650 and 1673 *Fustian an apes*].

1611 COTGRAVE.

Trip de velours. Valure, Mocke-veluet, *Fustian an Apes.* 1611 COTGRAVE.

One of my neighbors . . .

Set a-fire my *fustian and apes* breeches.

a 1627 MIDDLETON, *Works*, iv. 425. (H.)

[. . . "Which the editor proposes to correct to *Naples* breeches. To mend the matter, we actually find *apes' breeches* set down in the index to the notes!" H. p. 59.]

Fustian an apes, tripe de velours. 1632 SHERWOOD (ed. 1650 and 1673).

Fustian anapes. 1662 *Strange Man telling Fortunes to Englishmen*. (H.)

That *fustian anapes* or *an apes* should be *fustian a Naples*, that is, *o' Naples*, 'of Naples,' is proved by the following quotations :

Que null homme . . . use ne were en arae pur son corps . . . ascun fustian, bustian, ne *fustian de Napuls*.

1463 *Act 3 Edw. IV. v.* (N.E.D. s.v. *A-napes*.)
Fuschan in appules. 1519 *Inventory*, quoted in Peacock, *Church Furniture*, p. 200. (P. p. 571.)

Trippa, a kinde of tripe veluet that they make womès saddles with called *fustian of Naples*. 1598 FLORIO.

Trippa, any kind of tripe. Also a kind of tripe veluet as our *fustion of Naples*. 1611 FLORIO.

Trippa di veláto, tripe velvet, mock-beggars velvet, *Fustian of Naples*. 1659 FLORIO, ed. Torriano.

Naples fustians tript, or velure plaine. 1660 *Act 12 Chas. II. iv.* (N.E.D.)

I suspect that the provincial word *nailnapes*, a gimlet (1847 Halliwell, 1854 Baker), was originally **nail a Naples*, 'nail o' Naples,' that is, a tool, like a twisted nail, imported from Naples or Italy, as swords were imported from Milan ("Milan steel"). A gimlet is also cald a *nail-passer*, where *nail* is used in a different way.

Italy was noted for its horses, and Lombardy, Apulia, and *Naples* ar mentiond especially :

For it [this hors] so hy was, and so brood and long,
So well proporcioned for to ben strong,
Ryght as it were a *stede of Lumbardeye*,
Ther-with so horsly and so quik of ye,
As it a *gentil Poileys courser* were.

c 1386 CHAUCER, *Squire's Tale*, l. 191.

Cheval du Regne. *A courser of Naples*.

1611 COTGRAVE.

There is a recipe for *Naples-biscket*, quoted from an unnamed source, probably c 1675, in Wright, p. 693. These examples indicate that *Naples* was, like *Rome*, used with a general implication of 'Italy'; as *Paris* often implies 'France.' I find the following late ME. forms of the name: *Naples*, *Napels*, *Napells*, *Napuls*, *Napele*, beside *Napes* as above.

Apes wer introduced into England from Italy, and wer often exhibited by Italians. An old political poem, mentioning "the commodites and nycetees of Venicyans and Florentynes, with there galees," says :

The grete galees of Venees and Florence
Be wel ladene wyth thynges of complacence,
Alle spicerie and of grocers ware,
Wyth swete wynes, alle manere of chaffare,
Apes, and japes, and *marmusettes taylede*,
Nifles, trifles, that litelle have avayled.

1436 *The Libel of English Policy*, l. 348 (Wright, *Polit. Poems*, ii. 172).

The exhibitors or keepers, cald *apewards*, ar noticed in the fourteenth century.

'No,' quath an *ape ward*, 'for nout that I knowe.'

1362 LANGLAND, *Piers Plowman*, (A), vi. 119.

In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries apes wer kept in the wel-known Paris Garden and in other places, and allusions to their tricks, dress, and manners ar numerous.

In this lande I did see an *ape* plaie at ticke-tacke, and after at Irishe on the tables, with one of that lande. 1573 BULLEIN, *Dialogue*. (H. p. 873.)

When Fencers fees are like to *apes* rewards,

A piece of breade, and therewithal a bobbe . . .

1576 GASCOIGNE, *The Steele Glas* (ed. Arber), p. 80.

The apes, monkeys, baboons, bavians, wer exhibited in fantastic dress :

An ape vvilbe an *ape*, by kinde as they say,

Though that ye clad him all in purple array.

1589 [PUTTENHAM], *Arte of Eng. Poesie* (ed. Arber), p. 211.

A mockmask of *baboons attired like fantastical travellers, in Neapolitan suits and great ruffs*, all horsed with asses.

1614 CHAPMAN, *Maske of the Middle Temple and Lyncolnes Inn* (p. 342, ed. Shepherd). (*Littledale*, in *Two Noble Kinsmen*, Notes, p. 144.)

Here we hav the very 'Jack of Naples,' in fantastic dress, sitting on an ass. Henry the Fifth says he could sit on his horse "like a Iack an Apes, neuer off" (see quot. above).

A *jackanapes* coat with silver buttons. a 1669 PEPYS, *Diary*. (Wr. p. 598.)

It is the gaudy or fantastic dress, indeed, that led to the use of *jackanapes* for a fop or pert dandy. Compare *macaroni*, also of Italian origin, in the quotation from Moor, above.

"Italian sports" of all kinds wer popular in the sixteenth century :

Al eyes behold, with eagre deepe desire,

The Faulcon flye, the grehounde runne his course,

The Bayted Bul, and Beare at stately stake,

These Enterluds, these *newe Italian sportes*.

1576 GASCOIGNE, *The Steele Glas* (ed. Arber), p. 59.

It is to be noted that *Punchinello* (with its short form *Punch*), *pantaloon*, *harlequin*, ar from the Italian ; and *Merry-Andrew* is an Italian character.

Th' *Italian Merry Andrews* took their place,

And quite debauch'd the Stage with lewd grimace.

1673 DRYDEN, *Epil. to Univ. of Oxford*, l. 11. (C.D.)

Monkey, which has supplanted *ape* as the popular generic term in English, is usually referd to an Italian origin, and monkeys ar to this day familiar accompaniments to the music which Italian genius accumulates by the "storage system" and turns on at pleasure— if that be the word to use.

For the local reference in the phrase-name 'Jack of Naples' compare *Jack of Dover*, *Jack of Paris*, both applied to some kind of pie.

Many a *Jakke of Dovere* hastow sold,
That hath ben twies hot and twies cold.

c 1386 CHAUCER, *Cook's Tale*, Prol. l. 23.

Jack-of-Paris, s. An indifferent pie twice baked. Sir T. More.

1857 WRIGHT, p. 599.

27. Apple, ME. *appel*, *appul*, etc., AS. *æppel*. ME. *an appel*, etc., appears as *a nappelle*, *a napyll*, *a napylle*, *a napulle*, etc.

(a) *An Appylle*, pomum [etc.].

1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 11.

(b) Hoc pomum, *a nappylle*.

c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 715, l. 14).
Hec pertica, the sterte of *a napulle*.

c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 719, l. 7).
Hoc pomum, An^{ee} *a nappelle*.

c 1475 *Pictorial Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 790, l. 1).
Befoir his face *ane naple* hang also.

c 1475 HENRYSON, *Orph. and Eur.* l. 282. (Donaldson, *Suppl.*)
And in that towne of Napells he made a tower with iiij corners, and in the
toppe he set *a napyll* upon a yron yarde, and no man culde pull away
that *apell* without he brake it. . . . When he had made an ende he
lette call it Napels.

1510 *Virgilius*, p. 31. (Thoms, *Early Prose Rom.*, 1838, vol. ii.)

28. Apple-tree. ME. *an appyltre* grows into *a nappyltre*.

(a) *An Appylle tre*, pomus, malus, pomulus, pomellus. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 11.

(b) Hec pomus, *a nappyltre*. c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 715, l. 13).

29. Ar, *arr*, a scar; ME. *arre*, *erre*, from Icel. *örr*, *ör* = Sw. *ärr* = Dan. *ar*, a scar. ME. *an erre* appears as *a nerre*.

(a) If it hath a scar [*var. wounde* or *an arre*]. c 1388 WICLIF, *Levit.* xxii. 22.
Ar. A scar; a pockmark. This word is extremely common in the North
of England. 1847 HALLIWELL.

Arr, a scar left by a wound. "I'll gie thee *an arr* to carry to thy grave."
1855 [ROBINSON], *Whitby Gloss.* p. 5.

(b) Hoc carecter, hoc cicatrix, *a nerre*.

c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 680, l. 1).

30. Arain, also *aran*, *arran*, *arrian*, a spider; ME. *arayne*, *aranye*, *erane*, *erany*, *ireyne*, *eranye*, *irain*, *yreyne*, etc., from OF. *aragne*, *araigne*, *iragne*, L. *aranea*. We find ME. *an erane* written *a nerane*.

(a) Thou madest to flowen awei as *an ireyne* his soule.

c 1382 WICLIF, *Ps.* xxxviii. 12.

Eranye, orspyde(r) [*read* or *spyder*], or spynnare. *Aranea*.

1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 140.

An Erane (a *spyder* or an *attercopp*), *Aranea*, *Araniola*, *Araneus*.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 116.

Arain, a spider. 1691 RAY, *North Country Words* (E.D.S.), p. 30.

Sweep th' *arrans* down, till all be clean, neer lin,

Els he'l leauk all agye when he comes in.

1697 *Yorkshire Dialogue*, p. 59. (H. p. 77.)

Aran-web is a cobweb in Northumberland.

1847 HALLIWELL, p. 77.

- (b) *Aranea, nerane.*

c 1425 *Lat.-Eng. Vocab.* (Way, *Prompt. Parv.* p. 140, note 2).
Hec arena, hec aranea, *a nerane.*

c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 706, l. 5).

31. Archdeacon, ME. *archdekyn, arsdekyn, ersdeken*, etc., **ML.** *archidiaconus*. **ME.** *an arsdekyn* is found as *a narsdekyn*.

- (a) Hic archidiaconus, *A^{ce} a arsdekyn.*

c 1475 *Pictorial Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 780, l. 1).
An archedekyn, archidiaconus. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 12.

- (b) Hic archidiaconus, *a narsdekyn.*

c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 680, l. 17).

32. Archer, ME. *archer, archere*, **OF.** *archer, archier*, **ML.** *arcarius, arcuarius*. We find **ME.** *an archer* as *a narcher*.

- (a) An archer uor þet he hedde y-lore ate geme, nom his bo3e, and ssat an he3 a-ye god. 1340 MICHEL (tr.), *Ayenbite of Inwyt.* (E.E.T.S.), p. 45.
An archer, Architenens, arquites [etc.]. 1483 *Cath. Angl.*, p. 12.

Somtyme I was *an archere* good,

A styffe and eke a stronge.

c 1500 *A Lytell Geste of Robyn Hode* (Child, *Ballads*, v. 120).

- (b) Hic architenens, *a narcher.* *c* 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 687, l. 38).
A narchar. *a* 1500 *Ashmole MS.* 48 (P. p. 569).

33. Arm, ME. *arm*, **AS.** *earm*. **ME.** *an arme* appears as *a narme*.

- (a) Brachium, *an^{ce} an arme.*

c 1450 *Lat.-Eng. Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 568, l. 37).

- (b) Hoc brachium, *a narme.* *c* 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 676, l. 27).

34. Arm-hole. ME. *an armhole* appears as *a narmehole*.

- (a) As Aries hath thin heued, & Taurus thy nekke & thy throte, Gemyni thyn *armholes* & thin armes. *c* 1391 CHAUCER, *Astrolabe* (E.E.T.S.), p. 13.
Armehoolle. Acella, subyrus. 1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 14.

- (b) Hec acella, *a narmehole.* *c* 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 676, l. 28).

35. Arrow, ME. *arow, arewe, arwe*, etc., **AS.** *earh*. *An arrow* often became *a narrow*.

- (a) With *an arrowe* on him slouh.

c 1330 MANNING, *Hist. of Eng.* (*Langtoft's Chron.*), p. 123.

An Arrowe, pilum, hasta, hastula, [etc.]. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 13.

- (b) With that ther cam *a narrowe* [printed *an arrowe*].

a 1548 *The Hunting of the Cheviot* (Child, *Ballads*, vii. 36).

A narrow [printed *an arow*], that a cloth yarde was lang.

a 1548 *Id.* (Child, *Ballads*, vii. 38.)

A narrowe.

a 1500 *Ashmole MS.* 48. (P. p. 569.)

36. Arrow-case, ME. *arrowcase, arowecaas, arewecaas*, a quiver. **ME.** *an arrowcase* appears as *a narrowcase*; a clear case of a narrow case.

- (a) Take . . . *arewecaas* [1382 quyuer] and a bow.

c 1388 WICLIF, *Gen.* xxvii. 3.

- (b) Pharatra [read *pharetra*] a narrowcase.

c 1400 *Metr. Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 624, l. 20).

[A glossator adds: "Hic carichus i. est techa facta de corio, anglice bowcase."]

37. Arrow-shot. A sixteenth-century undertaker makes it a narrow *shott*.

- (b) A woman . . . was slayn . . . with a narrow *shott* in the neke.

1557 MACHYN, *Diary* (Camden Soc. 1848), p. 136.

38. Ash¹, dial. *esh*, ME. *asche*, *esche*, AS. *æsc*, a tree, *Fraxinus excelsior*. ME. an *esche* appears as a *nesche*. Compare *Nash* from *atten ashe* (see ASH, II. A. 8).

- (a) An *Esche*, *fraxinus*.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 117.

Esch key, frute. Clava.

1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 143.

- (b) Hoc *fraccinum*, a kay of a *nesche*.

c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 716, l. 13).

39. Ash-tree. ME. an *eschetre* appears as a *neschetre*.

- (a) *Esche*, *tre*. *Fractinus* (*fraxinus*, P.).

1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 143.

- (b) Hec *fraccinus*, a *neschtre*. c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 716, l. 12).

40. Ash-cloth, a cloth for carrying ashes. I find an *ash-cloth* taken as a *nash-cloth*.

- (a) (b) Charevastre: m. An *Ash-cloth*, *Nash-cloth*, or Buck-cloth. Terny comme vn charevastre. As pale as an *Ash-cloth*.

1611 COTGRAVE [ed. 1673 same, except *cloath* for *cloth* in every instance].

Neither *ash-cloth* nor *nash-cloth* is in the dictionaries. The *New English Dictionary* gives *ashes-cloth*, based on a late ME. example:

They shalle have *aysshes clothes* . . . to fetch *aysshes* in from every mannes chambres.

1461-83 *Ord. R. Househ.* 85. (N.E.D.)

41. Ask-fise, *askefise*, also *ask-fist*, *askefyste*, one who blows the ashes; a ME. term applied to a servant who made and kept the fire, and also as a term of reproach for a lazy fellow who sits all day by the fire. Compare Sw. "*Askefis*, qui cineribus oppedit" (1769 Ihre, i. 115); Dutch "*Assche-vijster*, One that sits alwayes on the hearth, hanging his head over the ashes" (1658 Hexham); "*asch-vijster*, Ciniflo, cinerarius" (1598 Kilian). We find an *askfist* taken as a *naskfyste*.

- (a) *Askysye* (*askefise* K. P. *askefyse* H.). Ciniflo. 1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 15. Ciniflo, an askfist or iren heter. a 1500 *Add. MS.* 24640 (Way, *P.P.* p. xxii).

[Many other examples are cited by Way, ll. cc.]

- (b) Hic ciniflo, a *naskkyste* [read *naskfyste*].

c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 684, l. 39).

42. Asp¹, dial. *esp*, ME. *asp*, *aspe*, *espe*, AS. **æsp*, *æspe*, *espe*, also *æps*, a tree, *Populus tremula*. We find ME. an *espe* taken as a *nespe*.

- (a) *An Espe*, tremulus. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 117.
 (b) *Hec tremulus, a nespe.* c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 716, l. 20).

43. **Ass**, ME. *ass, as, has, asse*, AS. *assa*. We find *an ass* (with *haspiration has*) burdend as a *nas*, *a nasse*.

- (a) Loo! þi lorde comys rydand on an *asse*.
 c 1430 *York Plays*, xxv. l. 27 (p. 202).
Hic asinus, hec asina, a has.
 c 1475 *Pictorial Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 757, l. 36).
Hic onager, A^{ccc} a wyld has. c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 700, l. 33).
 (b) þe child he kest a-pon a *nass* [var. *an asse*, 3 mss.].
 c 1300 *Cursor Mundi* (Cotton MS.) (E.E.T.S.), l. 3152.
Hic asinus, A^{ccc} a nas. c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 699, l. 1).
 To here of Wisdome thi neres be halfe defe,
 Like a *Nasse* that lysteth upon an Harpe.
 a 1500 *Hermes Bird* (Ashmole, *Theatr. Chem.* p. 222). (P. p. 569).
 He can romy as a *nasse* in his cracche.
 a 1500 *Harl. MS.* 1002 (Wright, *Vocab.*¹ l. 151).

44. **Assherd**, ME. *asseherd, ashard*, a keeper of asses; from *ass* + *herd*, a keeper. I find ME. *an ashard* taken as a *nashard*; and the same word, *assherd, ashard*, reduced to *azzard* (compare *gozzard* for *gooseherd*, ME. *gosherd*; *sheppard, shepard* for *shepherd*; ME. *swynard* for *swineherd*, etc., see quot. *b*), has come, both as *an azzard* and as a *nazzard*, to be used as a term of contempt for an insignificant person, like *gozzard*, just cited, as used for 'a fool' (H.).

- (a) *An ashard.* c 1450 *Nominale*. [See below, under *b*.]
An Asse-heard, or keeper of Asses. 1659 RIDER, *Dict.* ed. Holyoke.
Azzard. A sneaking person; an insignificant fellow. *North.*
 1847 HALLIWELL.

Hence *azzardly*, 'poor, ill-thriven' (H.). Compare *nazzardly* below.

- (b) *Hic vaccarius, a cowherd. Hic equinarius, a horsharde. Hic mulundinarius, a mulharde. Hic asinarius, a nashard. Hic bubulcus, a swynherde. Hic aucarius, a gosherd.*
 c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 687, l. 19-24).

The form *nazzard*, derived as above, being used in a deflected sense, lost connection with its original, and underwent many changes, *nazard, nazart*, with variant termination *nazzald, nazold, nazzle*. For the form compare a *nazznowl* for *an assnoll* (No. 45). The changes *-ard (-art) > -ald > -old > -le* occur in other instances.

Some self-conceited *nazold*, and some jaundice-faced ideot.

1639 *Optick Glasse of Humors*, p. 160. (H. p. 572; Wr. p. 597.)
Nazzle, or rather *nassel*, is only a miserable, vulgar contraction of *an-assel*, ab *asellus*; ab *asinus*; a young ass: — consequently Gr.

1783 LEMON, *Eng. Etymology*.

[The Rev. George William Lemon allowd no petty obstacles to stand in the way of his demonstration that nearly all English words ar derived from the Greek.]

Nazzald, an insignificant lad. 1830 SCATCHERD. (H. p. 572.)

Nazart. A mean person; an ass. *Derb.* Sometimes *nazzle*.

1847 HALLIWELL.

Nazzle. A low, mean, insignificant, vulgar fellow.

1889 PEACOCK, *Manley and Corringham Gloss.* (E.D.S.), ii. 365.

Hence the adjectiv *nazzardly*, *nazardly*.

What! such a *nazardly* Figwiggen

A little Hang-strings in a Biggin.

1734 COTTON, *Burlesque upon Burlesque*, p. 201. (D. p. 431; and H. p. 623.)

45. **Ass-noll**, used, like the synonymous *ass-head* (in Latimer, Shakespeare, etc.), for 'a fool.' I find *an ass-noll* only in the dialectical form of *a nazznoll* or *a nazznowl*. Compare *azzard*, *nazzard* (No. 44). Our English ancestors wer much given to vituperation; and persons who, to speak vituperativly, wer wel qualified to play the part of the translated Bottom without being translated themselves, wer fond of casting reflections, if not harder missils, at the 'nolls,' 'polls,' 'sconces,' 'skulls,' or 'head-pieces' of their neighbors. And the sober ass, who has never spoken except to rebuke impatience, was often brought in, to aid odious comparisons. All this has, of course, happily disappear'd — except where it stil prevails.

(b) *Nazznowl* or *Nazzknoll*, a stupid fellow. "You aud *nazznowl*!"

1855 [ROBINSON], *Whitby Gloss.* p. 116.

Nazznowl, an imbecile. 1876 ROBINSON, *Whitby Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 130.

46. **Attercop**, in provincial use also *attercob*, *attercap*, *ettercap*, a spider, fig. a peevish, il-natured person; ME. *attercoppe*, *atturcoppe*, *attyrcope*, etc., AS. *attorcoppa*, a spider, from *attor*, *ātor* (E. dial. *atter*, *etter*), poison, + *coppa*, probably also used alone as 'spider,' as in ME. *copwebbe* (now *cobweb*), *spincoppe*, a spider-web (*spyncoppe*, Caxton, *Game of the Chesse*, p. 29), = Dutch *spinnekop*, a spider. I find *an attercop*, Sc. *attercap*, *ettercap*, in the form of *a nattercap*, *a nettercap*.

(a) *An atturcoppe* com out of the wow3, and bote hem by the nekkus alle thre.

c 1330 (?) *Lyf of St. Wenefride*, in *Pref. to*

Rob. de Brunne, p. cc. (Wr. p. 125).

Ettercap, *addercap*, *attercope*, — a virulent, atrabilious person: Gl. Antiq.

1880 JAMIESON, ii. 164.

(b) *Ather*, or *Natter-cap*, s. The dragon-fly, Fife.

1866 JAMIESON.

Nettercap, s. A peevish, cross-tempered person, Clydes.

1880 JAMIESON, iii. 357.

The ME. *attercoppe*, probably by confusion with *addre* for *naddre*, an adder (see NADDER, I. B. 2), is also found as *addurcop*, *adercop*, *edircop*, whence modern dial. *eddercop* (H.), *eddercop*; and *an edyrcop*, *an eddercap*, appears as *a nedyrcop*, *a neddercap*.

- (a) *Aranea, addurcop.* c 1400 *Metr. Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 625, l. 14).
Araneus, an adercop, or a spynner.
 c 1500 STANBRIDGE, *Vocabula*, sign. d ii. (Herttage, *C.A.* p. 116).
 (b) *Hec aranea, a nedycopp.*
 c 1475 *Pictorial Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 766, l. 26).
Neddarcap, neddercap, s. An ill-natured, cross-tempered person; generally applied to children. 1880 JAMIESON, iii. 347.

47. **Atterjack**, a toad, from *atter*, poison (as in *attercop*), + *jack*, as used vaguely for 'creature.' Toads being void of venom and of jewels, wer therefore popularly believd to possess both. *Atterjack* is unrecorded, but it must hav existed, *an atterjack* being the original of *a natterjack*, a toad, a British name, especially of the walking toad or rush-toad. See C.D.

- (b) *Nalterjack* [read *natterjack*]. A toad. *Suffolk.*
 1847 HALLIWELL, p. 570 [misplaced].
Natterjack. A toad. *Suffolk.* 1857 WRIGHT.

48. **Attered**, ME. *attrid*, AS. *ge-ættred*, *ge-ætréd*, poisond, envenomd, from *attor*, *ātor*, poison (see ATTERCOP, No. 46). Hence, in a personal use *attered*, 'venomous, acrid, ill-natured'; *an attered person*, taken as *a nattered person*, and so *nattered* in other connections. Compare *nattery* in the next entry.

- (a) Archars with arows with *attrid* barbis.
 a 1500 *MS. Ashmole* 44, f. 42. (H. p. 108.)
Atter'd, pp. 'Our cream's all atter'd,' i.e. curdled. Also, as the flesh is scabbed or mattered. See *atter*.
 1876 ROBINSON, *Whithy Gloss.* (E.D.S.) p. 7.
 (b) *Nattered.* Ill tempered. *North.* 1847 HALLIWELL.
 As she said of herself, she believed she grew more "*nattered*" as she grew older; but that she was conscious of her "*natteredness*" was a new thing. 1853 MRS. GASKELL, *Ruth* xxix. (D. p. 430.)

49. **Attery**, ME. *attry*, *attri*, AS. *ættrig*, *ætrig*, poisonous, from *attor*, *ātor*, poison (see 46, 47, 48). *Attery*, still extant in provincial use (Sc. *atry*, *eterie*, *etrie*, etc.), appears to hav been applied, like *attered*, to persons, with reference to temper, 'venomous, acrid, bitter, ill-temperd,' and *an attery person*, taken as *a nattery person*, gave rise to *nattery* (Sc. *nyatterie*, *netterie*, etc.) in other connections.

- (a) ðerof him brinneth siðen
 Of ðat *attrie* ðing [an adder swallowd].
 c 1230 *Bestiary*, l. 316. (*Old Eng. Misc.*, E.E.T.S., p. 10.)
 Liun of prude, neddre of *attri* onde, unicorne of wreððe.
 c 1230 *Ancren Riwele*. (H. p. 957).
 Thanne cometh of ire *attry* anger. c 1386 CHAUCER, *Parson's Tale*.
 On face and hondis thei had gret nayles
 And grette hornes and *atterying* [read *attery*?] taylws.
 c 1400 *Tundale*, p. 6. (H.)

The kinde of the disease, as ye may gather out of that verse, was a pestilentious byle, — *ane attrie* [Eng. ed. *matterie*] kind of byle, stryking out in many heades or in many plukes; for so the nature of the word signifieth. 1591 BRUCE, *Eleven Serm.* fol. 1 b. (Jam. 1808.)

An attery, or thwartover wench, i. An angry or crosse natur'd wench.

1639 JOHN SMYTH, *Descr. Hund. of Berkeley* (Robertson, *Gloss. Glouc. Dial.*, E.D.S., p. 198).

Atry, *attrie*, adj. 1. Purulent. . . 2. Stern, grim. 1808 JAMIESON.

Eterie, *etrie*, adj. 1. Keen; bitter; applied to weather. 2. Ill-humoured; ill-tempered. Roxb. 3. Hot-headed; fiery; having an angry look. Dumfr. Roxb. 1866 JAMIESON.

Attery. Mattery or purulent. 1876 ROBINSON, *Whitby Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 7.

(b) *Nattery*, fretful. [See *nattering*, below.]

1855 [ROBINSON], *Whitby Gloss.* p. 115.

Netterie, adj. Ill-tempered. Tweedd. 1866 JAMIESON.

Natrie, *nyatrie*, adj. Ill-tempered; crabbed. Aberd. Mearns.

1866 JAMIESON.

Nyatterie, *nyatrie*, adj. Ill-tempered; peevish. Aberd. 1866 JAMIESON.

From *nattered* and *nattery*, develope as above, has been form'd a verb *natter*, to chatter peevishly; and from this a participial adjective *nattering*. These forms are parallel to *norate*, *norating*, from *oration* (see ORATION, below). Quotations are abundant.

Natter, v. n. To chatter peevishly. Roxb. *Nyatter*, Dumfr. *Gall. Encycl.*

1866 JAMIESON.

Nyatter, v. n. To chatter, *Gall.* 2. To speak in a grumbling and querulous manner, *ibid.* Aberd. 1866 JAMIESON.

Natterin, part. adj. Chattering in a fretful way. 1866 JAMIESON.

"Ha' a drop o' warm broth?" said Lisbeth, whose motherly feeling now got the better of her *nattering habit*.

1859 MARY ANN EVANS ("GEORGE ELIOT"), *Adam Bede*, iv. (D.)

Nattering or *Nattery*, fretful; as one "always fishing in troubled waters."

"Genning and *Nattering* the day tiv an end." grumbling the day through.

1855 ROBINSON, *Whitby Gloss.* p. 115.

He's a *natterin* soart of a chap — they'll nobody ha' mich rest as is near him.

1882 NODAL and MILNER, *Lanc. Gloss.* (E.D.S.) p. 197.

The forms *nattered*, *nattering*, *nattery*, have apparently affected *nettled*, irritated, so that it appears as *nattled* and in Lancashire as *nattle*. Palmer (p. 639), with the "no doubt" which is so often the usher of error, says that *nettled* is "a more polite form of *nattled*, corresponding to Lancashire *nattle*."

50. **Aunt**, ME. *aunte*, *awnte*, from OF. *ante*, L. *amita*. *An aunt* appears as *a naunt*. Compare *my naunt* (III. A. 11).

(a) *An Awnte*, *amita*, *matertera*.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 16.

(b) *Hec ameta*, *hec matertera*, *a nawnth*.

c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 690, l. 29).

Hec Amita, A^{oe} *a naunte* of y^e fader syde. *Hec matertera*, *a naunte* of ye moder syde.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 428.

51. **Aunter**, ME. *aunter*, *awntere*, *auntour*, *aventure*, etc., from OF. *aventure*. I find *an awntere* as *a nawntere*.

- (a) *An aunter* in erde I attle to schawe.
 c 1360 *Syr Gawayne and the Green Knight* (E.E.T.S.), l. 27.
Aunters, adventures. Flowtersome *aunters*, high-flown deeds or notions.
 1875 ROBINSON, *Whitby Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 7.
- (b) Sir Utere and syr Ewaynedyre, theis honourable knyghttez,
 Be a *nawntere* [so ms., but printed *an awntere*] of armes Joneke has
 nommene. *c* 1440 *Morte Arthure* (E.E.T.S. 1865), l. 1904.

52. Aup², a wayward child; a provincial word, probably a variant of *elf*, through the forms *auf*, *ouph* (compare *alp*, a bullfinch, with variants *aup¹*, *olp*, *olph*, *olf*, *oup*, *ope*, *nope*, etc.: see No. 14). I think *an aup* may be the source of a *nup*, a fool (H.). Compare *nauphead*, a stupid person; also *nupson*, a fool, which may be compared with *aups* and *hawps*, other forms of *aup²*. For the change of the sound *au* to *u*, compare provincial English *aup³* (H.) for *up*.

- (a) *Aup*. A wayward child. *North*. It is pronounced *aups* in Craven, but the word is not in general use in Yorkshire. 1847 HALLIWELL.
Hawps. An awkward clown. *North*. 1847 HALLIWELL.
- (b) *Nup*. A fool. 1847 HALLIWELL.
 O, that I were so happy as to light on a *nupson* now.
 1616 B. JONSON, *Every man in his Humour*, iv. 4.
Nupson. A cully, a fool. 1796 GROSE, *Dict. Vulg. Tongue*.
Nauphead. A stupid person.
 1889 PEACOCK, *Manley and Corringham Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 365.

53. Awl¹, formerly also *aul*, *all*; ME. *aule*, *earwle* (AS. *awel*, *arwl*), *oule*, *owel*, *owul* (AS. *āwel*, *āwul*), *el*, *ele* (AS. *ēl*), *alle*, *al* (AS. *al*, *eal*). We find *an awl* (*an all*, *an al*) early taken as a *nawl* (*naul*, *nall*, *nal*).

- (a) *pi bile* is stif and scharp and hoked,
 Ri3t so *an owel* þat is croked.
 a 1250 *Owl and Nightingale*, l. 79.
- Sibula [*read* subula], *an^{ce} an ale*.
 c 1450 *Lat. and Eng. Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 611, l. 38).
- (b) He shal thril his eer with a *nal* [*1382 an alle*]. 1388 WICLIF, *Ex.* xxi. 6.
 Sibula, *nalle*. *c* 1400 *Metr. Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 628, l. 34).
Nall for a souter, alesne. *Nall* maker, faisevr dalesnes.
 1530 PALSGRAVE, p. 247.
- A Aule*, Subula . . . *A naule*, idem, quod *Aule*.
 1570 LEVINS, *Manip.* 13, l. 38, 43.
- Hole bridle and saddle,
 whit leather and *nall*,
 with collers and harnéis,
 for thiller and all.
 1580 TUSSEY, *Five Hundred Pointes* (E.D.S.), 17, 4.
- Lance de S. Crespin*. A Shoemakers *nawle*. 1611 COTGRAVE.
 His lingel and his *naule*.
 1647 BEAUMONT AND FLETCHER, *Woman pleased*, iv. 1.
- Nawl*, s. An awl. 1825 JENNINGS, *Somerset Gloss.* p. 56.
Nawl, an awl. 1881 Mrs. PARKER, *Oxfordshire Words* (E.D.S.), p. 91.
Nale. An awl. 1891 CHOPE, *Dial. of Harland* (E.D.S.), p. 60.

54. Awn, ME. *awn*, *awne*, *awene*, earlier *agun*, Icel. *ögn*, etc. ME. *an awn* occurs as a *nawn*.

- (a) *An Awn of corne*, arista, aristella diminutivum. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 16.
 (b) *Hec arista, a nawen.* c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 725, l. 33).

55. **Ax**, also in antiquated spelling *axe*; ME. *ax*, *axe*, *ex*, AS. *æx*, *eax*, Old North. *acas*. We find *an ax* taken as *a nax*.

- (a) & *an ax* in his oþer, a hoge & vn-mete.
 c 1360 *Syr Gawayne and the Green Knight* (E.E.T.S.), l. 208.
Hec securis, a hax. c 1475 *Pictorial Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 807, l. 17).
An Axe, ascia, asciola, ascis [etc.]. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 16.
 (b) *Hec securis, a nax.* c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 726, l. 35).

56. **Axletree**, ME. *axeltre*, *axyltre*, etc. ME. *an axyltre* is found as *a naxyltre*.

- (a) *Hec axis*, An^{oe} *a exyltre*.
 c 1475 *Pictorial Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 811, l. 30).
An Axyltre, Axis. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 16.
 (b) *Hec axis, a naxyltre.* c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 727, l. 26).

57. **Ay**, an egg, the original English term; ME. *ay*, *ai*, *aye*, *aie*, *ey*, *eye*, *3ey*, also aspirated *hay*, *hey*, *hei*; plural *ayren*, *ayrenn*, *airen*, *ayryn*, *ayrene*, *eiren*, *eirun*, *eyren*, *eyrenn*, *eyrene*, *eyron*, *eyrone*, *eyroun*, also aspirated *heiren*; AS. *æg*, pl. *æggu*, egg. (For the modern form compare *clay*, AS. *clæg*; *gray*, AS. *græg*; also *day*, AS. *dæg*; *lay*, AS. *læg*; *may*, AS. *mæg*, etc.) This is a different word from the related *egg*, ME. *egge*, which is of Scandinavian origin (Icel. *egg* = Sw. *ägg* = Dan. *æg*), and which is confused with it in the dictionaries. The Scandinavian word has entirely prevaild over the AS. word, which for that reason, and for others, calls for special notice. ME. *an aye* (*an aye*, *an eye*, etc.) occurs as *a nay* (*a naye*, *a neye*), and this *nay* survives, for centuries unrecognized, in a word which has lost all connection with its original meaning. I first illustrate the regular form:

- (a) Quan the dowe [dove] was *an ey*, than hadde it non bon.
 a 1300 (?) *Gifts from Over Sea* (Wright, *Songs and Carols*;
 Child, *Ballads*, viii. 271).

Afterward a flok of bryddis,
 And a faucon heom amyddes.
An ay he laide, so he flegh,
 That feol the kyng Phelip nygh.

c 1300 *King Alisaunder*, l. 556 (Weber, *Metr. Rom.* i. 28).

For the erthe y-likned may be
 to an appel upon a tree,
 The whiche in myddes hath a colke,
 As hath *an eye* in myddes a yolke.

c 1340 (?) HAMPOLE, *MS. Addit.* 11305, b. 93. (H. p. 263.)

[In another version we find *an egge*; H. p. 290, s.v. *dalk*.]
 Unslekked lym, chalk, and gleyre of *an ey* [var. *an aye*, 1 ms.].

c 1386 CHAUCER, *Canon's Yeoman's Preamble*, l. 87. (Six-text, G. 806.)

For the tithing of a ducke
Or of an apple, or *an aie*.

Complaint of the Plowman, l. 809 (*Polit. Poems*, 1859, i. 330).

This brid [partriche] be a bank bildith his nest,
And heipeth his *hetres*, and hetith hem after.

1399 LANGLAND, *Richard the Redeless*, iii. 41.

[Read *hepeth his heiren* — plural *eiren* aspirated. Skeat alters to *eires*.]

Ey (or *egge*, P.). Ovum. 1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 136.

Hame, thyn skyn of *an eye* or oper lyke (skynne of *an hay*, S.). Membranula. 1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 224.

Hoc ovum, An^{ce} a *hey*. Hoc albumen, An^{ce} the whyte of the *hey*.

c 1475 *Pictorial Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 789, l. 36).

[Neither *ay* nor *ey* in *Cath. Angl.* 1483.]

Aftur take the *zey* of an henne that is fayled when sche hath sete, and take a lytyl flaxe, and dip it in the glayre of that *eye*, and lay to the kancur. a 1500 *MS.* (H. p. 952.)

Plural *ayren*, *eyren*, etc. :

þe uo3el him uerreþ bleþeliche uram þannes huer me brekþ his nest,
and uram þannes huer me him benimþ his *eyren*.

1340 MICHEL (tr.), *Ayenbite of Inwyrt* (E.E.T.S.), p. 178.

Take swongene *eyrene* in bassyne clene,

And kreme of mylke, that is so schene.

c 1400 (?), *MS. Sloane*, 1986, p. 85. (H. p. 841.)

The Cok [peacock] his *eyron* and his briddes hateth.

c 1420 *Palladius on Husbandrie* (E.E.T.S.), i. 618.

[*Eyron* occurs in l. 582, 632, 636, 672, 680, 708, 710, etc.]

The following well-known passage from Caxton, quoted here for its present pertinency, is of wider interest than eggs :

And certaynly our langage now used varyeth ferre from that whiche was used and spoken whan I was borne, for we Englysshemen ben borne under the domynacyon of the mone, which is never stedfaste, but ever waverynge, wexyngne one season, and waneth and dyscreaseth another season; and that comyn Englysshe that is spoken in one shyre varyeth from another, insomoch that in my dayes happened that certayn marchaunts were in a shippe in Tamysse for to have sayled over the see into Zelande, and for lacke of wynde, thei taryed atte Forland, and wente to lande for to refreshe them. And one of theym, named Sheffielde, a mercer, cam into an hows and axed for mete, and specyally he axyd after *eggys*; and the goode wyf answerde that she coude speke no Frenshe, and the marchaunt was angry, for he also coude speke no Frenshe, but wolde have hadde *eggys* and she understode hym not; and then at laste another sayd that he would have *eyren*. Then the good wyf said that she understod hym wel. Loo, what shold a man in thysse dayes now wryte, *eggys* or *eyren*? Certaynly it is harde to playse every man, bycause of dyversité and chaunge of langage.

1490 CAXTON, *Eneydos*. (H. p. xxi.)

The latest appearance of the word I find is in Palsgrave :

Eye or *egge*, œvf.

1530 PALSGRAVE, p. 216.

The word *ay* also occurs in several compounds which hav never before been collected :

(1) **Ay-cake**, an 'egg-cake'; ME. *eykake*. Cf. Icel. *eggjakaka*, omelet.

Isylkake, or chesekake, or *eykake* bakynne vnder askys. Flamicia.

1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 266.

- (2) **Ay-shell**, an eggshell; ME. *ayschelle*.

He fondith to creope, as Y ow telle,
Ageyn in to the *ay-schelle*.

c 1300 *Kyng Alisaunder*, l. 577 (Weber, *Metr. Rom.* i. 29).

- (3) **Ay-white**, the white of an egg; ME. *eyquyt* (AS. *ægēs þæt hwīte*, Saxon Leechdoms, iii. 74, etc.). Cf. Icel. *eggja-hvīta*.

Eyquyt.

a 1500 (?). (H. p. 343; no reference.)

There is one compound involving the plural form of *ay*—the early ME. *eire*, AS. *ægru*; namely—

- (4) **Eir-monger**, a dealer in eggs.

Mizte *eirmonger* nou fare so.

c 1305 *St. Swithin*, 69.

In the other compounds *ay* is the second element :

- (5) **Ant-ay**, the egg of an ant.

Annt eyron yeve hem [fesanntes] eke.

c 1420 *Palladius on Husbandrie* (E.E.T.S.), i. 680.

- (6) **Goose-ay**, the egg of a goose.

As greet as a *gos eye* [*gosey*, Wright; *gose egg*, B.].

c 1394 *Pierce the Ploughman's Creed* (ed. Skeat, E.E.T.S. 1867), l. 225.

- (7) **Gripe-ay**, the egg of a 'gripe': a rarity much valued, and used as a drinking-cup. Probably it was really the egg of an ostrich.

Ciphus, vocatus a *gryp ey*, ligatus cum argento, et deaurato.

1419 *Will of William Gascoigne, Lord Ch. Justice*, in *Testam. Ebor.* i. 303. (Way, *Prompt. Parv.* p. 213, note.)

The term was more common as two words, with the first element in the possessiv form, *gripes ay* :

And sigh the cuppe stonde aside
Which made was of Gurmundes hed . . .

And was policed eke so clene

That no signe of the sculle was sene,

But as it were a *gripes eye*. c 1393 GOWER, *Conf. Am.* i. 127.

Item, un coupe fait d'un *gripesei* garnisez d'argent endorrez, steant sur un pee de iij. kenettes [etc.].

1399 *List of Crown Jewels delivered* (Way, *Prompt. Parv.* p. 213, note).

In the same inventory are named six hanaps or drinking cups called *gryppeshey*. Kalend. of Exch. iii. 319, 330. WAY, *Prompt. Parv.* l.c.

The gripe was properly a vulture; but in the liberal ornithology of the middle ages it could also be a griffin, and lay eggs in that capacity, like a "cokadrille."

Ayren they [sc. the cokadrilles] leggith as a *griffon*.

c 1300 *Kyng Alisaunder*, l. 6602 (Weber, *Metr. Rom.* i. 272).

(8) **Hen-ay**, a hen's egg.

Men gaff . . .

For a *hen-ay* penes unlevene.c 1325 *Richard Coer de Lion*, l. 2839 (Weber, *Metr. Rom.* ii. 110).*An ay* (*an aye, ey, eye*) is found as a *nay* (*naye, neye*).

- (b) Sayned bakon & somtyme a
- neye*
- [var.
- an eye*
- 2 mss.,
- an ey*
- 3 mss.] or tweye,
-
- For sche was as it were a manere deye.

c 1386 CHAUCER, *Nun's Priest's Tale* (Lansd. ms.), l. 25. (Six-text, B. 4035).

pe two eyne of the byeryne was brighttere þane silver,

The toþer was 3alower thene the 3olke of a *naye*.c 1440 *Morte Arthure* (E.E.T.S. 1865), l. 3281.

Compare the like form *nay* in *no nay* for *non ay*. I giv two examples (see *AY*, IV. 1).

The form *nay*, thus develop't, has been noticed heretofore only slightly, as a passing accident of hand-writing. But it was more than a slip of the pen. It was establisht as an independent word, and was used as such in composition. And it survives to-day, unrecognized, in the word *cockney*, a word which has baffled all the etymologists from Minsheu to Murray.

Cockney, in the sixteenth century spelt usually *cockney* (1540 and later), but also *cocknie* (1594), *cockneie* (1573), *cocknaie* (1562), earlier *coknie* (1532), *coknaye* (1531), *cocknaye* (1530), *cokenay* (1530), *cokney* (1521), was in the fifteenth century spelt *cokenay* (c 1500), *coknay* (1483), *kokenay* (c 1470), *cokenay* (c 1450, 1440), *kokeney* (1440), *coknay* (1440), and in the fourteenth century, when it arose, *cokeneye* (c 1400), *cokeney* (c 1393), *cokenay* (c 1386), *cokeneye* (c 1386), *kokeney* (c 1377), *cokeney* (c 1362).

In the fourteenth century it is found only in verse, and verse of a colloquial character. In the earliest passage (see below) it is a dissyllable, and should be, as it appears later, *cokney* or *coknay*, being form'd from *cock*, and *nay, ney, egg*. It means 'cock-egg.' It corresponds exactly (in Chaucer's three-syllable use even to the unoriginal connecting vowel) to the later *cockaneg* in Florio (see *EGG*, No. 74). It corresponds also to the term *cock's egg*, stil in provincial use in England for the same thing; and to the term *rooster-egg*, not enterd in the dictionaries, but in familiar use in parts of the United States. A *cock-nay, cock-ney, cockaneg, cock's egg, rooster-egg*, is a small imperfect egg, differing in size and usually in color and shape, from a normal egg of a hen. The popular notion about rooster-eggs is, or was in my school-days, that they produce roosters. (The matin bird is always cald a rooster in the United States.) Boys just from the nursery sometimes thought, from

the name, that rooster-eggs wer laid by roosters. I find this oval eccentricity roundly asserted, and squarely denied, in solemn print :

'A Florida man owns a rooster that has laid an egg. This is not humorous,' says an exchange. No; it is simply untruthful.

1892 *Puck's Library*, Oct., p. 7.

I remember that boys used to extend the name *rooster-egg* to any small pointed egg; they wer favorits in the game of chance called "picking eggs," wherein two eggs in the hands of two boys, wer knockt together, end to end. The boy whose egg proved the hardest, was then entitled to the broken egg.

Cockney then, ME. *coknay* or *cokney*, was a trivial term of rustic or pueril origin, applied to a small imperfect egg, and probably, like *rooster-egg*, to any small egg. This wil enable us to understand the earliest quotations, which follow.

'I haue no peny,' quod Pers, 'poletes to bugge,
Nouther gees ne grys, bote twey grene cheeses.
And a fewe cruddes and craym, and a therf cake,
And a lof of benes and bren i-bake for my children.
And I sigge, bi my soule, I haue no salt bacon,
Ne no *cokeneyes* [*kokeney* B, *cokeney* C], bi Crist, colopus
[*coloppes* B, *colhoppes* C] to maken.'

1362 LANGLAND, *Piers Plowman* (A), vii. 267.

The next quotation is from a burlesque poem, describing a tournament of clowns and scullions, and the feast which followd :

At that fest were thei seruyd in a rich aray
[with a ryche aray, Harl. ms.];
Euery fyve and fyve had a *cokeney* [*cokenay*, Percy];
And so they sate in iolite al the long daye.
a 1500 *Tournament of Totenham*, st. xxvi. (ed. Wright, 1836 — Pickering;
also Percy, *Reliques*, II. i. 4; Child, *Ballads*, viii. 115, etc. N.E.D.
dates it a 1600: correct, but obviously too cautious).

The humor is in giving a "cokeney," or small egg, to every five, whereas in the knightly feasts there was a more liberal provision of more appetizing fare :

Ay two had disches twelue,
Good ber & bryzt wyn boþe.
c 1360 *Syr Gawayne and the Green Knight* (E.E.T.S.), l. 128.

As 1 cockney ÷ 5 (= $\frac{1}{5}$ of a small egg) is to 12 dishes + beer + wine ÷ 2 (= 6 dishes with beer and wine galore) ; so was the tournament feast of Tottenham to the feast of Sir Gawain and his peers.

By hooke or crooke nought could I wyn there, men say
He that comth euery daie, shall haue a *cocknaie*.
He that comth now and then, shall haue a fat hen.
But I gat not so muche in comyng séelde when,
As a good hens fether, or a poore eg-shel.
1562 HEYWOOD, *Proverbs and Epigrams* (Spenser Soc., 1867), 36. (Also
Wright, *Turn. Totenham*, l.c., note; *Piers Pl.*, Gloss. p. 580; etc.).

Wright got nearly at the meat of the matter when he inferred from the three passages cited that "a *cockney* was some kind of lean or common meat of which the peasantry made collops" (*Turnament of Totevham*, note). But the meat was in the eggs which went with the collops. What wer collops?

Collope. Frixatura, carbonacium, carbinella. 1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 88.
Carbonella, an^{ce} a *colhoppe*.

c 1450 *Lat.-Eng. Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 570, l. 37).

Frixa, an^{ce} a *colhoppe*, or a smache-cok. c 1450 *Id.* (Wright, 584, l. 44.)

[*Smache-cok*, in modern form properly **smatch-cock*, a cock or bird that servs to giv a smatch or smack or taste — that is, a delicate morsel — is, I think, the true source of the perverted *spatchcock*.]

Frixa. A *colop*, or a pece off flesch.

c 1470 *Medulla Gram.* (Hertridge, *C. A.* p. 72.)

A *Collop*, carbonella, frixa. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 72.

Colloppe meate, œvf au larde. 1530 *PALSGRAVE*, p. 207.

The *coloppes* cleaued faste to the fryenge pannes bottom for lacke of oyle, droppynge or butter. 1519 *HORMAN, Vulgaria.* (Hertridge, *C. A.* p. 72.)

Riblette: f. A *collop* or slice of bacon. Des œufs à la riblette. Eggs and *collops*; or, an Omelet or Pancake of egges, and slices of bacon mingled, and fried together. 1611 *COTGRAVE*.

Estrelládos huévos, eggs fried (without beating together) as when they are fried with *collops* or bacon. 1623 *MINSHEU, Dict. in Span. and Eng.*

Eggs and collops. Fried eggs and bacon. *Var. dial.* 1847 *HALLIWELL*.

The existence of the term *cock's egg* since 1626, and probably from a much earlier date, is establisht by the entries in the *New English Dictionary*. It is parallel to the form *cockaneg*, which is a true compound, *cock* + *negg*, and the proper substitute for *cock-nay*, as *negg* is the substitute for *nay*, and *egg* for *ay*. See under *EGG*, below. *Cocknay* in strict use would have been **cock-ay*, ME. **cok-ay*, **cok-ey*; and indeed I suspect this very word, extended to mean any small egg, or any egg, has cum down obscurely to modern times, emerging in the provincial (Craven) form *goggy*, an egg (H.). For the change of **cockay*, **cockey*, to **goggey*, *goggy*, compare *cockle* with *coggle* (Jam. 1808, etc.), *cockly* with *coggly* (Jam. 1808, etc.), *cock's-bones* with *gogsbones*, *gogs nouns* (tho here another cause has operated), *cucking-stool* with *goging-stool* (H.), etc. The use of the trivial form *nay* in composition at so early a period is in keeping with the use of the similar trivial form *nye* for *eye*, in *pigsnye*, ME. *piggesnye*, in the same period, and in *wall-nyed* a few years later (see under *EYE* below, No. 87).

From the sense of 'cock-egg,' or 'small egg,' the word past over to the sense of a 'small, weak child,' 'a child treated with foolish

indulgence,' and so 'a weak, spiritless fellow.' It is in this slang use that it appears in Chaucer :

And when this Iape is tald another day
 I sal been halde a daf, a *cokenay* [var. *cokeneye*, Lansd. ms.]
 I wil arise, and aunte it, by my fayth;
 Vnhardy is vnseely, thus men sayth.
 c 1386 CHAUCER, *Reeve's Tale*, l. 288. (Six-Text, A. 4209.)

The transfer may not seem obvious to many, but it is in keeping with the atmosphere of trivial humor in which the word *cockney* originated and in which it has always existed. It has never attained dignity. I hav collected numerous examples for the fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth centuries; but they ar all for the deflected senses, and throw no additional light on the word. For the later development of the word, I refer to Dr. Murray's article in the *New English Dictionary*.

Dr. Murray was the first etymologist to recognize the egg in this celebrated mare's nest, but he has faild to discern the true form of the egg, and has mistaken the part the cock plays in the matter. He explains Langland's *cokeney* as *coken ey*, which, he thinks, means 'cocks' egg,' and which he supports by a fallacious German analogy. But even if his supposed genitiv plural existed and was used in the way he imagins ('cocks' egg, *gallorum ovum*'), it would not be **coken*, but **cokken*, AS. as if **coccena*. Dr. Murray is too good a phonetician not to see this, if the notion wer propounded by an other etymologist, or by an American. But no such form as even **cokken* can be found; the plural of ME. *cok*, genitiv and nominativ, is *cokkes*. Dr. Murray is also in error in saying that "*ay, ey (ai)* are regular ME. forms of *egg*," and that "*ay(e)*" is an "obsolete form of *egg*." *Ay, ey*, ar no more forms of *egg* than *draw* is a form of *drag*. To use Dr. Murray's own language, "nothing can be more certain in phonetics than that" *ey* or *ay* "*could not be*" a "form" of *egg*.

Dr. Murray's mistakes ar rather unfortunate, as he prepared himself for his work by attacking an other eminent etymologist for making an other mistake about the same word. Few great philologists escape the frequent pain of seeing clearly the errors of other scholars. That they do not shrink from the added pain of correcting such errors, is greatly to their credit; but it is a risky benevolence. Professor Skeat, who in the "Glossarial Index" to the *Specimen of Early English*, Part II. 1879, edited by himself and Dr. Morris, came near to the truth by admitting, as "another interpretation" of the word as used by Langland, the definition "small cocks, lean fowls," preferd the inter-

pretation "cooks, scullions." This view is explained at length in the "Errata and Addenda" Professor Skeat's *Etymological Dictionary* :

M.E. *cokeney* answers precisely to a F. *coquiné*, Low L. *coquinatus*, and I suspect that Mr. Wedgwood has practically solved this word by suggesting to me that it is founded on L. *coquina*, a kitchen. We might imagine *coquinatus* to have meant, as a term of reproach, a vagabond who hung about a kitchen of a large mansion for the sake of what he could get to eat, or a child brought up in the kitchen among servants. We may particularly note F. *coquineau*, 'a scoundrell, base varlett,' Cot.; *coquiner*, 'to begge, to play the rogue'; *coquinerie*, 'beggery'; *coquin*, 'a beggar, poor sneak.' This suggests that the F. *coquin* is connected with L. *coquus*, as to which Littré and Scheler seem agreed. I think we are now certainly on the right track, and may mark the word as (F.,—L.). I would also suggest that the F. *coquin*, sb., was really due to the verb *coquiner*, which answers to Low L. *coquinare*, to cook, i.e. to serve in a kitchen. The transition in sense from 'serve in a kitchen' to 'beg in a kitchen' is very slight, and answers only too well to what we know of human nature, and the filching habits of the lowest class of scullions, &c. *Coquinatus* might mean 'attached to a kitchen' without any great violence being done to the word.

1882 SKEAT, *Etym. Dict.*, Errata and Addenda, p. 785.

This view was emphatically repeated a few years later :

Cokeney, cook's assistant, scullion, inferior cook, 9. 309; *Cokeneyes*, pl. scullions, a. 7. 272. I have now no doubt at all that this difficult word (whence mod. E. *cockney*) answers to an O.F. *coquine* [sic], = Low Lat. *coquinatus*, from *coquinare*, to cook, serve as a scullion, a derivative of Lat. *coquina*. It is easily seen how *coquinatus* might mean either (1) a person connected with the kitchen, as in M.E. *cokeney*, a scullion; (2) a child brought up in the kitchen, or pampered by servants, as in E. *cockney*, often used in this sense; and (3) a hanger-on to the kitchen, or pilfering rogue, whence F. *coquin*, as in Cotgrave.

1886 SKEAT, *Piers the Plowman*, ii. 332, col. 2, ll. 40-56.

The view expressed in this opinion of an eminent British etymologist, thus emphatically repeated, was mentioned, without approval, in an American work a few years later. Professor Skeat's name was not mentioned, for the reason that the etymology in question was not original with him. So far as L. *coquina* is concerned, he himself ascribes to Wedgwood; but it had been suggested earlier :

Cockney. The root of this word is doubtless the Latin *coquina*, a kitchen.
1860 ROBERT SULLIVAN, *Dict. of Derivations*, 9th ed. p. 71.

It is indeed involved in the notion that *cockney* originated from the French **coquiné*, or *accoquiné*, or *coquin*; and this etymology was suggested more than two hundred years ago by Dr. Thomas Henshaw, in Skinner's *Etymologicon* (1671). Dr. Henshaw thought it was a good etymology; for he himself says (he edited Skinner's work after Skinner's death), "Doct. Th. H. *sagaciter, ut solet, deflectit a Fr. G. Accoquiné, Ignaviæ deditus.*"

But Dr. Murray, making himself ignorant of these things, was able to treat this ancient British error (surely a natural and excusable error),

thus rehabilitated by Professor Skeat, as a new American invention, and under this convenient cover he opened his batteries on his fellow-Briton :

From the time of Minshew, with his merry folk-etymology [of *cockney*] . . . , to the present year, etymologists and etymological quacks (the latter especially) have given forth their conjectures upon its derivation. The most recent of these is the assertion that the word represents an (imaginary) O.F. *coquiné*, corresponding to an (imaginary) Med. Lat. *coquinātus*, taken in some such sense as 'a vagabond who hangs around the kitchen'; or 'a child brought up in the kitchen.' . . . Not to speak of the Latin or Old French absurdities involved. . . . Nothing can be more certain in phonetics than that *coke* *nay*, whatever it might be, *could not be* an O.F. **coquiné*.

1890 J. A. H. MURRAY, in *London Academy*, May 10, 1890.

He then proceeded to show how wrong and American all such notions are.

Dr. Murray, with a solicitude for which Americans should be grateful, manifests in the same correctiv epistle a desire that no one shall even mention such opinions (I mean those of other etymologists) in dictionaries, without his previous sanction. "Especially important is this," he explains, "in America, where, in the absence of living English usage, the dictionary occupies a place of authority never conceded to it by educated Englishmen." But I am afraid the case is hopeless. If there were any educated Americans, perhaps we might get along tolerably well, even "in the absence of living English usage"; but "in the absence of" both, we are in a parlous state indeed. Such Americans as have been able to snatch a few hours from their pioneer tasks of fighting the wild Indian and hunting the wild buffalo, in order to read, by the dim flickering light of a pine-knot, a little about the rudiments of language, have hitherto supposed that they speak English, and "living English" at that — crude, of course, and incorrect, and with an "American accent," but still a kind of "living English," however different from the clear, delicate, sonorous, *r*-less, *h*-less English set forth by Dr. Murray, Dr. Sweet, and other eminent British phoneticians as "living English usage." Americans will be much disappointed to learn from Dr. Murray that "English" means the speech of London, and "living English" the speech of certain persons, "educated Englishmen," now living in or near London; in other words, of educated Cockneys. I suppose there may be a reservation in favor of educated Scotchmen, who, "if caught young" and careful to avoid pronouncing *r* and *h*, may be allowed admittance into the outer sanctum of "living English usage." But on this point Dr. Murray maintains the traditional reserve of a true-born Englishman.

58. **Ayword**, a proverb, a by-word, supposed to be formed from *ay*, always, + *word*; meaning a word always or constantly used. *An ayword* appears also as a *nayword*. The earliest examples are in Shakespeare.

- (a) *An ayword*, a byword, an object of common ridicule:
For Monsieur Maluolio, let me alone with him: If I do not gull him into *an ayword*, and make him a common recreation, do not thinke I haue witte enough to lye straight in my bed: I know I can do it.
1623 SHAKESPEARE, *Twelfth Night*, ii. 3. 144 (F¹ p. 261).
- (b) *A nayword*, a countersign or watchword:
Qu. You must send her your Page, no remedie.
Fal. Why, I will.
Qu. Nay, but doe so then; and looke you, hee may come and goe betweene you both: and in any case haue a *nay-word*, that you may know one anothers minde, and the Boy neuer neede to understand any thing.
1623 SHAKESPEARE, *M. W.* ii. 2. 129 (F¹ p. 46).

The only other notices I find of the word are the following, all but one apparently based on Shakespeare's use, and not really provincial:

A Nayword. This is a common expression for a by-word or proverb, and is probably a Crasis of *an Aye-word*; that is, a word, or saying, always and perpetually used, agreeable to the ancient use of *Aye*. If this be not the meaning and original of it, it will be difficult to account for it.

1777 *Gent. Mag.*, July, p. 321.

Nayword, a byword, a laughing stock. 1830 FORBY, *Vocab. of East Anglia*.

Nayword. A watchword. Also, a proverb, a bye-word. *Shak.*

1847 HALLIWELL.

Nayword. (1) A watch-word. (2) A proverb; a bye-word. (3) A negative.
1857 WRIGHT.

For the last, as for the others, Wright gives no authority. If genuine, *nayword*, "a negative," is of course from *nay*, no, + *word*. It may rest on *nayward* in Shakespeare (*W. T.* ii. 1. 64).

59. **Eager**, early mod. E. *eagre*, *aigre*, *aygre*, ME. *eger*, *egre*, from OF. *egre*, *aigre*, F. *aigre*, from L. *acer* (*acr-*), sharp, bitter. In former E. use the word was often applied to persons in the sense of 'sharp, bitter,' as well as 'severe, cruel, fierce.' In provincial use it seems to have included the sense of 'mean, miserly'; hence *an eager* or *aigre* person, elliptically *an eager*, *an aigre*, now *a neager*, *a neeger*, *a neegur*, *a neigre*, *a nagre*, a mean fellow, a miser: a local term of reproach. The noun use is parallel to that of *an eddy* (see below), *a silly*, *an ancient*, etc.

- (a) And sklendre wyves, fiele as in bataille,
Beth *egre* as is a tygre yond in Ynde.
c 1386 CHAUCER, *Clerks Tale*, l. 1142.
- Egar*, fiers or mody as a wild beest is, fel. *Egernesne*, bytternesse, aigrure.
1530 PALSgrave, pp. 311, 216.
- Acérbo, sowre, sharpe, tarte, vnripe. Also cruell, seuere, *eager*, bitter.
1611 FLORIO.
- Aigre*, Sour.
1828 [CARR], *Craven Gloss.* i. 5.

- (b) *Nagre*, A niggardly person. 2. A negro, from Fr. *negre*, a negro.
 1828 [CARR], *Craven Gloss.* ii. 2.
Neager. A term of reproach. *North*. 1847 HALLIWELL; 1857 WRIGHT.
Nagre. A miserly person [a miser, Wright]. *North*.
 1847 HALLIWELL; 1857 WRIGHT.
Neigre, [*Neeger*, 1880,] s. A term of reproach, S. — Borrowed from F.
negre, a negro. 1866 JAMIESON.
Neeagur, a negro; also, a contemptible fellow; a stingy niggard.
 1877 ROSS, STEAD, and HOLDERNESS, *Holderness Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 99.

The etymology suggested in the last two quotations is, I think, erroneous. *Neager*, *neeagur*, a negro, is to be separated from *neager*, a miser, a stingy fellow. Negroes have never been so familiar to provincial thought in Northern England or Scotland as to make the name a common term of reproach; and miserliness is the last fault of which they can be justly accused. Moreover, the modern form *nagre* is not one which the sixteenth century *neger* would naturally attain. The dialectal *neager*, *neeagur*, forms parallel to *nigger*, being formerly *neger*, *negar*, *negre*, from sixteenth century F. *negre*, now *nègre*. *Nigger* is not, as is commonly supposed, a "corruption" of *negro*, but is a legitimate variant of *neager*, representing the older form *neger*, *negre*, from the French as given; while the English *negro*, like the French *negre*, was taken directly from the Spanish and Portuguese *negro*, a black man. Neither *nigger* nor *negro* is in itself "a term of reproach," any more than *white man* or *red man*.

The development in *eager* of the sense 'stingy' from the sense 'sharp, bitter,' is paralleled by the development of *stingy* itself from 'stinging, sharp, bitter,' to 'miserly.'

An East Anglian says the 'air is *stingy*,' that is, nipping, biting, bitter. . . .
Stingy is ill-tempered.

1876 R. MORRIS, *On the Survival of Early Eng. Words* (E.D.S.), p. 11.

60. Eagle, ME. *egle*, from OF. *egle*. ME. *an egle* takes one flight as a *negle* (*neggle*).

- (a) As doth *an egle* whan him list to sore.

c 1386 CHAUCER, *Squire's Tale*, l. 123.

An Egylle, aquila, aquilinus.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 112.

- (b) Hec aquila, A^e *neggle*. c 1425 *Lat.-Eng. Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 640, l. 12).

61. Eam, ME. *eme*, *em*, AS. *ēam*, uncle. ME. *an eme* is often a *neme*. See also *mine eam* (III. 14).

- (a) *An Eme*, Avunculus, patruus.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 114.

- (b) Hic avunculus, hic patruus, a *neme*.

c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 690, l. 27).

Hic patruus, A *neme* of y^e fader syde. Hic auunculus, An^{ce} a *neme* of y^e moder syde.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 428.

62. Ear^l, the organ of hearing; ME. *ere*, *cere*, AS. *ēare* = L. *auris*. ME. *an ere* is often a *nere*. Compare *EARWIG*, below.

- (a) For whanne the schipmen lay *an ere*
 Unto the voyce in here avis
 They wene it be a paradis. c 1393 GOWER, *C. A.* (H.)
An Ere, Auris hominum est. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 116 (under *E*).
 (b) Hec auris, A^e nere. c 1425 *Lat.-Eng. Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 633, l. 15).
A Nere, Auris, auricula. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 252 (under *N*).

63. **Ear²**, a spike of grain; ME. *eer*, *er*, AS. *ēar* = L. *acus* (*acer-*).
 ME. *an er* grows into a *ner*.

- (a) Four-ten *ers* [var. *eris*, *eres*] stand o quete [var. *whete*].
 c 1300 *Cursor Mundi* (Cotton MS.) (E.E.T.S.), l. 4577.
 The erthe by his owne worchyng maketh fruyt, first an erbe, afterward
an eere, afterward ful fruyt in the *ere*. c 1382 WICLIF, *Mark* iv. 28.
 (b) Hec spica, a *ner*. c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 725, l. 34).

64. **Earl**, ME. *erl*, *erle*, AS. *eorl*. ME. *an erle* appears as a *nerle*.

- (a) And *ane erle* þane in angerd answeres hym sone.
 c 1440 *Morte Arthure* (E.E.T.S. 1865), l. 1661.
An Erle, comes, comicellus. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 116.
 (b) Hic comes, A^e *nerle*. c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 683, l. 18).

65. **Earthdin**, ME. *erthedyn*, *erthdin*, *erddyn*, AS. *eorðdyne*, an earthquake. In early ME. *an erthdin* becomes a *nerthdin*.

- (a) *An erthe dyn*, or an erthe qvake, terremotus. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 117.
Erddyn gret in Ytaly
 And hugum fell all suddanly.
 c 1425 *Wyntown*, vii. 5. 175. (1808 Jam.)
Yirden . . . thunder. In Fife there is a proverbial phrase denoting
 expedition, although the meaning of the allusion seems to be lost
 among those who use it: "The wark gaes on like *yirdin*."
 1880 JAMIESON.

- (b) Thoru a *nerth-din* þat þer was. c 1300 *Cursor Mundi* (E.E.T.S.), l. 20985.

66. **Earthshrew**, a shrew, shrew-mouse, *Sorex vulgaris*; also a field-mouse, *Mus silvaticus*. The name of this little beast has undergone so many transformations that I cannot find any example of the original form *earth-shrew*. There is *erdshrew*, which leads to *hardshrew* (as if *hard* + *shrew*), and this to *hardyshrew*, *hardishrew* (as if *hardy* + *shrew*), which in turn has been varied to *hardy-mouse* (is it not a field-mouse?), and in other ways to *hardistraw* (because it doth inhabit the straw or stubble of the field), and to *harvest-row* (for that the hay or straw of harvest lieth in rows). The shrew in all phases has been an interesting creature, and has an interesting philological history. See SHREW¹, C.D.

(1) *Earthshrew*, dial. *erdshrew*. *An erdshrew* (**erdshrew*, **er'srow*) turns into a *nursrow*.

- (a) *Erd-shrew*. 1607 TOPSELL. (H. p. 338.)
 (b) *Nursrow*, s. a field-mouse. *Staff.* 1857 WRIGHT.

(2) *Hardshrew.**Hardshrew*, a kind of wild mouse.

1733 BAILEY.

(3) *Hardishshrew, hardy-shrew*; also *artishrew*.

It resisteth the poison inflicted by the sting of the *hardishshrew*, the sea dragon and scorpions. 1601 HOLLAND, tr. Pliny, vol. ii. p. 277. (P.)
 In Italy the *hardy shrews* are venomous in their biting. 1601 *Id.* viii. 58.
 Toporágno, a night-bat. Also the *hardie-shrew* [1598 a kinde of rat or mouse]. 1611 FLORIO.

Hardishrew. A field mouse. *Staff.* Also called the *hardistraw*.

1847 HALLIWELL.

Artishrew or *Artistraw*, sb. The harvest mouse.1890 ROBERTSON, *Gloss. Glouc. Dial.* (E.D.S.), p. 4.(4) *Hardistraw*; also *hartistraw, artistraw*.*Hardistraw*.

1847 HALLIWELL.

Artistraw . . . *Hartistraw*.1890 ROBERTSON, *Gloss. Glouc. Dial.* (E.D.S.), p. 4, p. 65.(5) *Harvest-row.**Harvest-row*. The shrew mouse. *Wilts.*

1847 HALLIWELL.

67. **Earwig**, ME. *erwygge, erewygge*, etc., AS. *ēarwicga*. This word has undergone many changes due to popular etymology. They are shown below. And it has yielded also to Attraction, an *earwig* becoming a **nearwig*, which I take to be the source of the transposed *wignear*. *Wignear* has been expanded by way of explanation into *wigginear* (*wig-in-ear*).

(1) *Earwig.*(a) Aurealis, an^{ce} an *erewygge*.c 1450 *Lat.-Eng. Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 567, l. 3).Auriolus, Anglice a *zerwigge*.a 1500 (?) *Vocab.*, Harl. MS. 1002 (Way, p. 143, note; H. p. 952).(b) *Wigginear*, var. of *earwig* . . . *Wignear*, i.q. *Wigginear*.1881 EVANS, *Leic. Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 290.(2) *Earwike.**Earwike*. An ear-wig. *Somerset.*

1847 HALLIWELL.

(3) *Earwig.*

Ear-wrig, s. *Earwig*. This word ought to be spelled *ear-wrig*, as it is derived, doubtless, from *wriggle*. 1825 JENNINGS, *Somerset Gloss.* p. 36.

Earwig. An ear-wig. *Somerset.*

1847 HALLIWELL.

(4) *Erriwig, arrawig, yerriwig.*

Arrawig or *Arrawiggle*. Often aspirated [*Hairy-wig*!]. The *Earwig*. 1854 BAKER, *Northampt. Gloss.* i. 17.

Arrawig, s. an earwig. *Northampt.*

1857 WRIGHT.

Yerriwig. An earwig. *West.*

1847 HALLIWELL.

Errewig (*er* as in *errand*), an ear-wig.1881 Mrs. PARKER, *Oxfordshire Words*, Suppl. (E.D.S.), p. 81.*Erriwig*. An earwig. 1888 LOWSLEY, *Berkshire Words* (E.D.S.), p. 78.

- (5) *Earwiggle*, a diminutiv form, associated with *wiggle*.

Arwygyll, worme. Aurealle (aurialis, P.). 1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 15.
Erwygle (*erewygyll*, P.). Aurealis. 1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 143.

(6) *Erriwiggle*. An *erriwiggle*, or *arrawiggle*, easily lends itself to the rustic etymology of a *narrow-wriggle*; as if in allusion to the difficulty the insect encounters in striving to enter the strait gate of the ear, or to its supposed wanderings in the "wriggles" or winding passages of the ear:

- (a) *Arrawiggle*. The earwig. 1823 MOOR, *Suffolk Words*, p. 10;
 1854 BAKER, *Northampt. Gloss.* i. 17; 1881 EVANS,
Leic. Gloss. (E.D.S.), p. 93.

Erriwiggle. An ear-wig. *East.* 1847 HALLIWELL.

- (b) *Narrow-wriggle*. An ear-wig. *East.* 1847 HALLIWELL.

Wriggle, s. Any narrow sinuous hole. 1825 JENNINGS, *Somerset Gloss.* p. 84.

Wriggle. Any narrow winding hole. 1847 HALLIWELL.

Wont [-*wriggle*], or 'Oont-*wriggle*, the succession of small tumuli thrown up by the mole. 1868 HUNTLEY, *Gloss. of the Cotswold Dial.* p. 70.

But an earwig, *Forficula auricularis*, cannot really "wriggle," any more than Aaron's rod before it became a serpent. The earwig rather scuttles, struggles, "scriggles."

Skriggle. To struggle, to wriggle. "A ketched an *arrawiggle* an t skriggled an got awah." "A skrigglen eel." To me it seems a very expressive word—it differs from both *struggle* and *wriggle*, being indeed a participant in both. 1823 MOOR, *Suffolk Words*, p. 355.

Eels and such slender vertebrates wriggle:

Wriggles, s. Sand eels. *Norf.* 1857 WRIGHT.

68. *Ebb*, ME. *ebbe*, AS. *ebba*. An *ebb* appears as a *neb*.

- (a) After an *ebbe* of þe flode.

1330 MANNING, *Hist. of Eng. (Langtoft's Chron.)*, 106.

- (b) The [blank] day of March ther was never so lay a *nebe*, that men myght stand in the mydes of Tames, and myght a gone from the brygys to Belynggatt, for the tyd kept not ys course; the whyche was never sene a-fore that tyme. 1557 MACHYN, *Diary* (Camden Soc. 1848), p. 168.

69. *Ebb-tide*. An *ebb-tide* is taken as a *neb-tide*; possibly confused with *neap-tide*.

- (b) Bold ocean foames with spight, his *neb-tides* roare,
 His billows top and topmost high doe soare.

1638 *Historie of Albino and Bellama*. (N. p. 598.)

70. *Eddy*, an idiot; a provincial word, literally 'a silly,' from ME. *edy*, *edi*, once *eddi*, earlier *eadi*, AS. *ēadig*, happy, blessed, silly (in its original sense), primarily rich. The more regular modern form from AS. *ēadig* would be **eady* (i'di), which indeed is indicated by the form **iddy* involved in *niddy*, below, and also by the Cornish adjectiv *easy*, idiotic, if that is **eady* altered to *easy* by association of *eath*, easy, with the different words *ease*, *easy*.

Eadi art tu meiden bimong alle wummen.

c 1200 *St. Marherete* (E.E.T.S.), p. 20.

Touward ted *eadie* londe of Jerusalem, þet he ham hefde bihoten.

c 1230 *Ancnen Riwele*.

Heyl, levedy, se-stoerre bryht

Godes moder, *edy* wyht,

Mayden ever vurst and late.

Reliq. Antiq. ii. 228 (H. p. 723).

This adjectiv early died out, being displaced by *seely* (now *silly*) and *happy*. But as a noun it appears to survive in *eddy*, an idiot, — that is, originally, a happy, blessed, innocent person; the development being parallel to that of *seely* (AS. *sǣlig*), happy, blessed, hence innocent, simple, foolish, silly — *silly* being just another form of *seely*.¹ That the form *eddy* is from AS. *ēadig* is confirmed by the parallel Scotch form *audie*, from the Icel. *auðigr* (= Goth. *audags*), cognate with AS. *ēadig*.

Eddy, n., a simpleton or an idiot, does not appear in the earlier dictionaries, tho the quotations presently to be cited indicate that the use is old.

(a) *An Eddy*, or a *Neddy*, an idiot.

1826 WILBRAHAM, *Cheshire Gloss.* (Baker, *Northampt. Gloss.* 1854).

Eddy. An idiot. *Chesh.*

1847 HALLIWELL.

Audie. A careless or stupid fellow. *Gl. Surv. Nairn*. 1866 JAMIESON.

This *eddy* is certainly not directly connected with *Edwin*, tho the notion is an old one :

Non immerito secundum vestratum usurpationem, qui stultum vocant *Edwinum*, reputarer *Eadwinus*. Cited by J. C. ROBERTSON, *Materials for Hist. of Thomas Becket* (1876), vol. i. (P. p. 582.)

The word may exist in the surnames *Eddy*, *Eddie*, and *Eadie*, and perhaps, in part, in the Scotch given name *Edie*, tho that is usually treated as a diminutive of *Adam*.

An *eddy* has become in some places a *neddy*, also a *niddy*, a simpleton, fool, idiot. I find an early instance :

(b) *Noe*. . . . Bot as have I blys,

[I] shall chastyse this.

Uxor. Yit may ye mys,

Nicholle *Nedy*!

Noe. I shalle make ye stille as stone, begynnar of blunder!

c 1450 *Towneley Myst.* p. 30.

The editor takes *Nedy* to mean 'needy,' but this does not suit the case. Noah was just about to enter the ark. It was full of meat.

¹ A recent reviewer in the *Nation* criticizes Mr. Bradley, the editor of the second edition of Stratmann's *Middle English Dictionary*, for not identifying *silly* with *selly*, AS. *sellic*, rare; but *silly* has nothing to do with *selly*. The common etymology from AS. *sǣlig* is quite correct. The proof is abundant.

He had no lack of goods, and was, besides, the proprietor of "the greatest show on earth." Noah, in fact, had a good deal laid up against a rainy day; and his wife, represented in the old plays as a sharp-tongued shrew, could not with any point call her venerable spouse *Nicol Neady*, 'poverty-stricken Nicholas.' There would be no point, no tartness, in that. She cald him *Nicol Neady*, 'Nick Silly,' 'Dick Simple,' 'Tom Fool.'

How comes it (Youth) to pass, that you
Who all the Deities subdue
And at thy Pleasure canst make *Neddies*
Of every God and every Goddess,
Nay, even me dost so inflame. . .

1675 COTTON, *Burlesque upon Burlesque*, p. 245. (P. p. 582.)
[But I should read *Noddies* here. See NODDY, under HODDY, No. 100.]
An Eddy, or a *Neady*, an idiot.

1826 WILBRAHAM, *Cheshire Gloss*. (1854 Baker.)
Neddy, a simpleton; generally used reproachfully. "What a *neddy* you must be, to do that!" 1854 BAKER, *Northampt. Gloss*. ii. 49.
Neddy . . . (2) A simpleton. *Neddyish*, silly. 1857 WRIGHT.

The name *neddy* came to be transferd to a donkey, in which use *neddy* is now probably regarded as a familiar use of the diminutiv personal name *Neddy*.

Neddy, a donkey. 1814 PEGGE, *Anecdotes of the Eng. Lang*.
Neddy. A jackass. *Var. dial.* 1847 HALLIWELL. (Also 1857 Wright.)
Neddy. A nickname for a donkey. 1854 BAKER, *Northampt. Gloss*. p. 49.
Neddy, a donkey. L. [Latham], who gives no example, thinks it a corruption of *an heady* (animal); but more than one Christian name is bestowed on this animal; e.g., *Cuddy*, *Dicky*, *Jack*.

1881 DAVIES, *Suppl. Gloss*.
Neddy, *Ned*, s. A name for a donkey. "A tinker's *neddy*." W. Watson's Poems, p. 100. The term is common in London, and in various parts of England as well.

1887 DONALDSON, *Suppl. to Jamieson's Scottish Dict.* p. 173.

So an **iddy*, variant of *eddy*, has become a *niddy*.

Niddy, a fool. *Devon.* 1847 HALLIWELL. (Also 1857 Wright.)

Hence the compounds *niddicock* (*niddy* + *cock* as in *hichcock*, *nickycox* (No. 93), *nodcock* (No. 98), *nodgecock* (No. 99), etc., and *niddypoll* (compare *noddypoll*, No. 102).

They were neuer such fond *niddicokes* as to offer anie man a rod to beat their own tails. 1587 HOLINSHED, *Chron. of Irel.* p. 44. (C.D.)

Oh Chrysostome, thou . . . deservest to be stak'd, as well as buried in the open fields, for being such a goose, widgeon and *niddecock*, to dye for love. 1654 GAYTON, *Festivous Notes*, p. 61. (N.)

She was just such another *niddecock* [misprint?] as Joan Gutierez. *Id.* p. 27.
What *niddipol* hare brayne would scorne this couenant?

1583 STANYHURST, *Æn.* iv. 110. (D.)

71. **Edge**, ME. *egge*, rarely *eg*, AS. *ecg*. We find ME. *an eg* enterd as a *neg*.

(a) *An Ege* (*Egge*, A.), *Acies*, *acumen*.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 112.

(b) *Hoc acumen*, *hec acies*, *a neg.*

c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 735, l. 14).

72. Edget, also *idget*, *idjit*, a kind of harrow or horse-hoe; a provincial word, probably representing AS. *egeðe*, *egiðe*, *egðe* (= MD. *egede* = OHG. *egida*, G. *egge*), a harrow, a rake. The regular Mod. Eng. form from AS. *egeðe*, as indicated by the once-occurring ME. *eythe*, would be **aithe*; the form *edget* indicates an early conformation with *edge* (which is, indeed, remotely related) and the termination *-et*. *An edget*, *an idget*, also appears as *a nidget*. (Compare *a nidget*² for *an idget*², *an idiot*, No. 115.)

(a) *Erpica*, *egeþe*. *Erpicarius*, *egeþere*.

c 1000 *Lat.-AS. Glosses* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 392, ll. 21, 22).

And harowede in an hand-whyle al holy scripture,

With to *eythes* [var. *harwes*, B] that thei hadden, an olde and a newe.

c 1393 *LANGLAND, Piers Plowman* (C), xxii. 272.

Edget, *Idget*.

1875 *PARISH, Dict. Sussex Dial.* (P.)

Edget, a term of husbandry. An implement used in the cultivation of hops. It is drawn by one horse, and passes between the rows to clean the ground. Called also *idget* and *nidget*.

1876 *GOWER, Surrey Provincialisms* (E.D.S.), p. 88.

Idjit. A particular form of cultivator. It consists of a square frame, which carries 16 short *tings* (tines) having small triangular feet. It has no wheels, and is drawn from one corner. It is a modern implement, but I think it is only made by local smiths.

1891 *CHOPE, Dial. of Hartland* (E.D.S.), p. 52.

(b) *Nidget*. Part of a plough. *Kent*.

1857 *WRIGHT*.

Nidget. A horse hoe.

1875 *PARISH, Dict. Sussex Dial.* (P.)

Nidget, alias *Edget* or *Idget*, a horse-hoe used among the hops.

1876 *GOWER, Surrey Provincialisms* (E.D.S.), p. 97.

73. Eel, ME. *ele*, AS. *æl*. ME. *an ele* wriggles along as *a nele*.

(a) *An ele* (*Eyle* A), *Anguilla*, *Anguillaris*.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 113.

A tod but and *an eel*.

The Young Tamlane (Child, *Ballads*, ii. 122).

(b) *Hec Anguilla*, A^e *nele*. c 1425 *Lat.-Eng. Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 641, l. 32).

Hic anguilla, *a nele*.

c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 704, l. 28).

74. Egg, early Mod. Eng. also *eg* and *egge*, ME. *egge*, from Icel. *egg*, etc., see under *ay*, No. 57. *An egg* hatches *a negg*.

(a)

It is far to byd hyte

To *an eg* or it go.

c 1450 *Towneley Myst.* p. 87.

An eg (*Egge* A), ouum, oriculum, ouulum.

1843 *Cath. Angl.* p. 112.

Vitello . . . the yolke of *an eg*.

1598 *FLORIO*.

(b) A child informed that he might have *an egg* for breakfast begs that he may have "two neggs."

1882 *PALMER, Folk Etym.* p. 568.

Compare *a nay* for *an ay* (No. 57).

That *negg* or *neg* existed in the sixteenth century is proved by the occurrence of the compound **cock-negg*, found in the form *cockaneg*.

Caccherelli, cacklings of hens. Also eggs, as we say *cockanegs*.

1598 FLORIO.

Cacherelli, hens-cackling. Also egges, as we say *cockanegs*. 1611 FLORIO.

Caccherelli, hens cacklings, by Met. new-laid eggs, *Cockanegs*,
1659 FLORIO, ed. Torriano.

As *cockaneg* is of special importance in proving the etymology of *cockney* (see No. 57), and as it occurs nowhere else than in this passage, the word and the passage call for special remark. Florio, in defining *caccherelli* as "cacklings of hens" or "hens-cackling," evidently derives it from the verb entered just before :

Caccherare, to cackle as a hen.

1598 (and 1611) FLORIO.

But this is a mistake. Florio's entry must refer to the following quotation from Boccaccio :

Al piè del pesco trouerai cento cacherelli della gallina mia.

1353 BOCCACCIO, *Decamerone*, Nov. 61.

[‘At the foot of the peach-tree you will find a hundred droppings of my hen,’ i.e. a hundred eggs. Compare Duez, *Dittionario Ital. & Française*, 1660, s.v. *cacarello*; Alberti, *Dizionario Ital.-Françese*, 1793, s.v. *cacherello*.]

Cacherelli as here used is simply a poor instance of the kind of taste which has given Boccaccio his popularity. The word is properly defined by Florio himself under another form :

Cacarelle, the trickles or dung of sheepe, goates, rats or conies.

1598 FLORIO.

By the phrase "as we say" Florio merely implies, according to his manner, that the expression is popular or trivial; and, in fact, *cockaneg* is a popular or childish form of **cockneg*, or, as it would now be spelt, **cocknegg*. The *a* is like the *a* in the analogous compound *pinkanye* (No. 87, 3), and in *blackamoor*. It is the unstable final *e* of the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth centuries; sometimes real (radical or inflexiv), as in *blacke moore* (Florio), later *blackamoor*; sometimes spurious, as in *cokenay*; and now, when made medial by composition, either lost, and omitted in spelling, as in *cockney*, or, happening to be spelt in some instances *a*, retained, because *a* is not regarded as "silent" — *blackamoor*, *pinkanye*, *cockaneg*, all obsolete or archaic forms. In some instances this *-e* becomes *-i* or *-y*; as in *molde-warpe*, *mouldiwarpe* (1578 Gascoigne), *mouldywarpe* (1854 Baker, *Northampt. Gloss.*), *moodiewarpe*, *moudiwarpe* (1855 *Yorkshire Gloss.*), as against the regular modern form *moldwarpe* (*moldwarpe*, 1623 Shakespeare, 1 *Hen. IV.* iii. 1, F¹ p. 61; Spenser, *Astrophel*), *mouldwarpe*.

75. Eke, also *eek, eak, eake*, Sc. *eik*, ME. *eke, eche*, AS. *ēaca*, an addition, increase; = Icel. *auki*, etc. I find *a neak, a neik*, in use for *an eke* (*an eak, an eik*). This is important, as being involvd in the better known change of *an ekename* to a *nekename, a nickname* (see next). The ME. noun is most common in the adverbial phrases *to eke, to eken* (AS. *tō ēacan*), in addition, besides, generally contracted to *teke, taken*; and *on eke*, in addition, besides.

- (a) The words scholle be ised
 Witheoute wane and *eche*. 1315 SHOREHAM, *Poems*, p. 10.
 Here chyn is chosen, and eyther cheke,
 Whit ynoh, ant rode *on eke*.
a 1450 (?) *Spec. Lyric Poetry* (1842), p. 34. (M.)
 Foure flowers here may scholers finde, that smelleth very sweete,
 Which Baret like a busie Bee (in tiring corps) thoughte meete
 To gather here into his Hyue, lo English, Latin, Greeke,
 Lo French, with diuers kindes of phrase, and sundrie sorts of *eke*.
 1573 Ed. G., *To the Reader*, in Baret's *Alvearie*, Pref. p. [viii].
 Likely from them a great *eke* will be put to Traquair's process, which
 before was long and odious enough.
a 1662 BAILLIE, *Letters* (1775), i. 323. (1808 Jam.)
Eik, [*eek* 1880,] *eke*, s. An addition. 1808 (and 1880) JAMIESON.
Ekes, helps. 'They had all maks o' shifts and *ekes*,' all kinds of excuses
 and contrivances. 1876 ROBINSON, *Whitby Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 60.
 (b) *Neik, Neak*, s. and v. A form of *eik*, q.v.
 1887 DONALDSON, *Suppl. to Jamieson's Scottish Dict.* p. 312.

The verb *neak, neik*, is not, of course, varied from *eke*, v., but the form is due to the noun *eke*. The verb *nick*, to nickname, is evolvd from *nickname*.

76. Ekename, a surname, added name, literally 'a name of addition.'

They clepe us drunkards, and with swinish phrase
 Soil our *addition*. SHAKESPEARE, *Hamlet*, i. 4.

ME. *ekename, ekname*, is not found in AS. (where **tōnama*, the source of the common ME. *toname*, probably existed), but was formd in ME. from *eke, eeke* (AS. *ēaca*), an addition, + *name* (AS. *nama*), name. Compare Icel. *auka-nafn*, 'name of addition' (*auka*, gen. of *auki* = AS. *ēaca*), also *auknefn* and *auk-nefni*, Sw. *öknamn*, Dan. *ögenavn*.

Ekename in the middle of the fifteenth century began to giv way to the alterd form, *an ekename, an ekname*, becoming a *nekename, a nekname, a necname*, and ultimately a *nickname*; but *ekename, ekname*, stil exists in provincial use.

- (a) *zeueþ* a man a vyle *ekename*. c 1303 MANNING, *Handlyng Synne*, 1531.
 Neke name, or *eke name*. Agnomen. 1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 352.
 Agnomen, *an ekename* or a surname.
c 1470 *Medulla Gram.* (Way, p. 352, n.).

- An Ekname*, Agnomen, dicitur a specie vel accione, agnominacio.
 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 112.
Uikname, s. Nickname; local pron. of *ekenname*. Ork.
 1887 DONALDSON, *Suppl. to Jamieson's Scottish Dict.* p. 249.
Ekname, sb. a nickname. People in North-East Derbyshire speak of '*an ekname*.'
 1891 ADDY, *Suppl. to Sheffield Gloss.* p. 20.
 (b) *Neke name*, or eke name. Agnomen. 1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 352.
Agnomino, To calle *nekename*. c 1470 *Medulla Gram.* (Herrtage, p. 112).
Nyckename, brocquart. 1530 PALSGRAVE, p. 248.
 A proclamation, in the whyche was commandement given thatt we shulde
 give no *necname* wntoo the sacrament, as rownd Robin, or Jack in the box.
 a 1563 THOMAS HANCOCK, *Autobiography*, in *Narratives of the*
Reformation (Camden Soc. 1861), p. 73.
Cognome, a surname, a *nickname*. 1598 FLORIO.

Hence the verb *nickname*, and the simple verb *nick*.

In English Wad and not Ode, as some corrupters of the englishe tonge do
nikename it.

1548 TURNER, *Names of Herbes*. (Britten and Holland, p. 358.)
 Titolare, to entitle, title, to surname, to *nickname* [1611 *nickname*].
 1598 FLORIO.

77. **Eldfather**, dial. *elfather*, ME. *eldfader*, grandfather, father-in-law, AS. *ealdfæder*, grandfather. We find ME. *an eldfader* as a *neldfader*.

- (a) Ane knaiff child . . .
 That eftir his gude *eldfadir* was
 Callit Robert.
 1375 BARBOUR, *Bruce* (ed. Skeat) xiii. 694. (Also in Jam. 1808.)
 Myn *eldefather* Jhesus.
 c 1382 WICLIF, *Prolog. to Eccles.* p. 123 (Herrtage, p. 113).
Eldfadyre. 1423 WYNTOWN, vii. 8, 230 (Jam. 1808).
Auld-father, s. A grandfather; a term used by some in the west of S.
 1866 JAMIESON.
El(d)fadyr. Socer. 1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 137.
An Eldfader, socer (socrus uxor eius). 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 113.
 Cesar the *eldfader* —
 Hys maick Pompey.
 1553 DOUGLAS, *Virgil*, 195, 26 (1808 Jam.).
Elfather, father-in-law. 1873 HARLAND, *Gloss. of Words used in*
Swaedale, Yorkshire (E.D.S.), p. 12.
 (b) Hic avus, A^{ccc} *a neld fadyre*. c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 689, l. 42).
 Hic Abauus, a^{ce} *A neld fadyr*. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 428.
 Hic socer, *a neldfadyre*. c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 691, l. 15).

78. **Eldmother**, dial. *elmother*, ME. *eldmoder*, grandmother, mother-in-law, AS. *ealdmōdor*, grandmother. We find also ME. *an eldmoder* as a *neldmoder*, a *noldmodyre*.

- (a) His *eldmoder*. c 1300 *Cursor Mundi* (E.E.T.S. 1874), l. 1189.
Eld modyr (*elmoder* K.P.). Socrus. 1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 137.
 Avia. *An eld modere*. c 1470 *Medulla Gram.* (Herrtage, p. 113).
 Socrus. *An e(l)de modere*. c 1470 *Medulla Gram.* (Herrtage, p. 113).
An Eldmoder, socrus. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 113.
Eldmoder to ane hunder thar saw I Heccuba.
 1553 DOUGLAS, *Virgil*, 55, 43. (1808 Jam.).
El-mother, Cu., a Step-mother. 1692 COLES, *Eng. Dict.*
Elmother, a stepmother. 1876 ROBINSON, *Whitby Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 60.

- (b) Hec ava, *a nold modyre*. c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 689, l. 43).
 Hec Abaua, a^{ce} *A neld moder*. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 428.
 Hec socrus, *a noldmodyre*. c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 691, l. 16).

79. **Elf-bore**, "a hole in a piece of wood, out of which a knot has dropped, or been driven; viewed by the superstitious as the operation of the fairies" (1866 Jam.). *Elf*, ME. *elf*, *alf*, has variants *auf*, *auf*, *awf*, *oaf*, *ouph*, etc. (see OAF, No. 129). Hence *elf-bore* was probably also once existent as **auf-bore*, and in the possessiv form **aufes-bore*, the last evidenced by the Scottish form *auwis-bore* (Jam. 1866). An *auwis-bore* appears as a *navus*-, *nawus*-, *nawvus-bore* (Jam. 1866). Compare *angus-bore*, "a circular hole in a panel" (Jam. 1866); for *auger's-bore*? see under NAUGER, B. 6.

80. **Ell**, ME. *eln*, *ellen*, *elne*, AS. *eln*. We find an *ell* as a *nell*, ME. an *ellen* as a *nellen*.

- (a) It wanted large an *eln* [var. *elne*, *ellen*] lenth.
 c 1300 *Cursor Mundi* (Trin. ms.) (E.E.T.S.), l. 8812.
 (b) Son [var. *son*] of a *nellen* [var. an *ellen*, Trin. ms.; an *elne*, other mss.]
 heght þai ware,
 þai stod þan still and wax na mare.
 c 1300 *Cursor Mundi* (Cotton ms.) (E.E.T.S.), l. 1419.
A nell of fuschian. a 1600 in *Archæologia*, xxv. 507. (Peacock.)

81. **Elsin**, also *elsen*, *elson*, *elsyn*, *elshin*, *elshon*, *alison*, *elishant*, ME. *elsyn* (from Old Dutch *elsene*, *aelsene*, Dutch *els*), an awl. An *elsin* is sometimes taken as a *nelsin*, and *nelsin*, assimilated to *nail*, is, I suppose, the source of *nailsin*, a gimlet. Compare *nail-passer* and *nail-napes* (see No. 26), provincial names for 'gimlet' (H.).

- (a) Subula, an *elsyn*. c 1470 *Medulla Gram.* (Heritage, p. 114).
 An *Elsyn*, Acus, subula (fibula A). 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 114.
 Subula, a cordoners *elsine*.
 1595 DUNCAN, *Appendix Etymologiae* (E.D.S. 1874).

Hoo! Hoo! gar raise the Reid Souter and Ringan's Wat,
 Wi' a broad *elshin* and a wicker.

The Fray of Suport (Child, *Ballads*, vi. 119).

Nor hinds wi' *elson* and hemp lingle,
 Sit soleing shoon out o'er the lingle.

a 1758 RAMSAY, *Poems*, II. 203. (C.D.)

- (b) *Elsin*. A shoemaker's awl. I have heard this word called *nelsin*, which is of course a corruption of an *elsin*.
 1892 M. C. F. MORRIS, *Yorkshire Folk-talk*, Gloss., p. 301.
Nailsin, a gimlet. Kennett. 1847 HALLIWELL.

82. **Emperor**, ME. *emperour*, *enperower*, etc., from OF. *emperour*. We find an *emperour* turnd into a *nemperour*.

- (a) An *Emp[er]our*, cesar . . . imperator. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 114.
 Ewen as an *enperower* I am onored ay.
 c 1485 *Mary Magdalene*, l. 933. (*Digby Myst.* (N.S.S.), p. 90.)
 (b) Hic imperator, a *nemperour*.
 c 1475 *Pictorial Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 781, l. 28).

83. **End**, ME. *ende*, AS. *ende*. *An end* is often a *nend*, ME. *a nende*.

(a) That dethe may make *an ende* of al my were.

c 1374 CHAUCER, *Tr. & Cr.* v. 1393.

If the justice mai you take,

Your life were at *an ende*.

a 1550 *Adam Bel* (Child, *Ballads*, v. 130).

(b) Bliþe sche was þat bataile was brouȝt to a *nende*.

c 1360 *William of Palerne* (E.E.T.S.), l. 3946.

Whenne thys werre ys at *A Nende*.

a 1450 *Sege of Rone*, Egerton ms. (*Percy Folio MS.* iii. p. xlv.).

A fyre of sponys and lowe of gromis

Full soun woll be att a *nende*.

c 1460-70 *The Good Wyf Wold a Pylgremage*, l. 83 (E.E.T.S. 1869, p. 41).

Off this proses J make a *nend*.

a 1500 *Lytell Thanke*, l. 77. (Ritson, *Anc. Songs*, p. 81.)

We [supposed] that the world where at a *nend*.

1561 MACHYN, *Diary* (Camden Soc.), p. 265.

Compare *at þen ende*, *attan ende*, *atten ende*, *atte nende*, etc. (II. A. 3).

84. **Errand**, ME. *errand*, *erand*, AS. *ærende*. ME. *an errand* is sometimes a *nerrand*.

(b) To send a *nerrand* [var. *a message*] for to her.

c 1300 *Cursor Mundi* (Cotton ms.) (E.E.T.S.), l. 3334.

85. **Eventide**, ME. *eventide*, *evyntyde*. We find ME. *an eventide* falling into a *neventide*.

(a) On ark on an *euynthyde* houez þe dowue.

c 1360 *Cleanness*, l. 485 (*Early Eng. Allit. Poems*, E.E.T.S. p. 52).

(b) And dernlik [var. *priuli*] he did þam bide,

Till again a *neuentide* [var. *an euentide*, þe *euentide* (2 mss.)].

c 1300 *Cursor Mundi* (Cotton ms.) (E.E.T.S.), l. 2518.

86. **Evet**, *effet*, *eft*, *ewt*, a lizard, ME. *evete*, AS. *efete*. The word appears in modern English in more than ten different forms, belonging to four types, *evet*, *effet*, *eft*, *ewt*, of which *evet*, *effet*, and *ewt* appear also with the attracted *n*, *evet* and *ewt* also with an aspirate, and *ewt* also with an inserted *l* (*yolt*).

(1) *Evet*, the regular form, speld also *evvet*, *evat*, with variants *eavet*, *aivet*, *ebet*; aspirated *hevet*. *An evet* appears also as a *nevet*.

(a) *Lacerta*, *evete*.

a 1200 *Lat.-Eng.* ("Semi-Saxon") *Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 544, l. 8).

Evetis, and snakes, and paddokes brode,

That heom thoughte mete gode.

c 1300 *Kyng Alisaunder*, l. 6126 (Weber, *Met. Rom.* i. 253).

Henete, a lizard. a 1500 *Nominale MS.* (H. p. 445.) [Read *heute*.]

Evet or lizarde, which is a grene beast or worme.

1552 HULOET, *Abecedarium*.

An Euet, or lisard [1580 lizard]. *Lacertus*, vel *lacerta*.

1573 BARET, *Alvearie*, E. 321.

- Lampiro, a kind of lizard or *euet*. 1598 (and 1611) FLORIO.
 Tarantello . . . a little *eft* or *euet*. 1598 FLORIO.
 Lizard, a little Beast like the *Evet*, but without poison.
 1623 COCKERAM, *Eng. Dict.* (1658), Part III.
 Eft . . . also [as] *Evet* [which is omitted].
 1692 (and 1717) COLES, *Eng. Dict.*
Evet, s. A lizard. 1825 JENNINGS, *Somerset Gloss.* p. 37.
Evet. A newt. *West.* 1847 HALLIWELL.
Evat. A newt. *Somerset.* 1847 HALLIWELL.
Newt. The water-lizard; a small amphibious reptile, generally found in stagnant waters, and sometimes in old walls. In Hertfordshire and many other places it has the name of *Eft* or *Evet*.
 1854 BAKER, *Northampt. Gloss.* ii. 52.
 The spittle or spawn of toads, *evets*, water-snakes and adders.
 LANDOR, *Works*, III. 332.
Evvet, the eft. 1881 SMITH, *Isle of Wight Words* (E.D.S.), p. 10.
Evet. A newt. 1890 ROBERTSON, *Gloss. Glouc. Dial.* (E.D.S.), p. 45.
 (b) *Lacerta*, vel *lacertus*, a liseard: a *neuet*. 1584 COOPER, *Thesaurus*.

(2) *Effet* (with surd for sonant); also, with varied termination, *effock* (1890 Robertson). *An effet*, taken as a *neffet*, and used in a figurative sense, appears to be the source of the Scotch *neffit*, *nyeffit*, *nyaffet*, a puny creature.

- (a) *Effet*, an eft, a newt. 1736 PEGGE, *Alph. of Kenticisms* (E.D.S.), p. 27.
Effet, a newt. *Var. dial.* 1847 HALLIWELL.
Effut. — An eft or newt. 1888 LOWSLEY, *Berkshire Words* (E.D.S.), p. 77.
 (b) *Neffit*, s. A puny creature, a pigmy, S. pron. *nyeffit*. 1808 JAMIESON.
 [With a false etymology (from *neif*, fist).]
Nyaffet, s. A diminutive, conceited chatterer; Laird of Logan, p. 591.
 1887 DONALDSON, *Suppl. to Jamieson*, p. 312.

(3) *Eft*, contracted from *effet*. I do not find *an eft* taken as *a *neft*.

- (a) Ther ben attercoppes, bladesoukers and *estes* that doon none harme.
 1387 TREVISA (tr.), *Polychronicon* (Caxton), p. 48. (Herttage, p. 116.)
 Lucertone, a great *eft* or lizard. 1598 (and 1611) FLORIO.
 Racogno, a Serpent called a Lizard or an *Eft*. 1598 FLORIO.
 Ragagno, Ragano, *an este*, a lizard, a nute, an aspe [read *aske*].
 1598 FLORIO.
 Ramarro, *an est*, a nute, an aske. 1598 FLORIO.
 Magrásio, *an Eft*, an Nute, an Aske. 1611 FLORIO [not in ed. 1598].
 When you have remained as long as I have in this darkness your eyes will distinguish the smallest *eft* that crawls on the floor.
 1819 SCOTT, *Legend of Montrose*, xiii.

(4) *Ewt* (*ewte*, *eute*), contracted from *evet*; also aspirated **hewt*, dial. *hoit* (H.); also with inserted *l*, dial. *yolt* (H.). For the contraction of *evet* to *ewt* compare that of *eaves* (ME. *evese*, AS. *efese*) to *ewes*:

- Spaldo, the *ewes* [1611 *eues*] or penteise of a house, an out-butting baie windowe. 1598 FLORIO.
 Stillecidio, the dropping of the *ewes* [1611 *earwes*] of the house, a little sinke or gutter. 1598 FLORIO.

An ewt (*an ewte*, *an eute*), early in the fifteenth century, began to take the form of *a newt* (*a newte*, *a neut*, *a nute*); and *newt* is now the prevalent form.

- (a) *Ewte*. c 1400 *Maundevice*. (H. p. 342.)
Newte, or *ewte*, wyrme. Lacertus. 1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 355.
Ligüro, an *Eft*, *au* [read *an*] *Eute*, an *Aske*, a *Lizard* [ed. 1598: *Liguro*,
 an *eft*, a *lizard*, a *nute* or *aske*]. 1611 *FLORIO*.
Yolt. *Newt*. 1890 ROBERTSON, *Gloss. Glouc. Dial.* (E.D.S.), p. 184.
 (b) For rotyng of the croppe [of apples] the galle is boote
 To touch hem with of *neutes* grene. c 1420 *Palladius on Husbandrie* (E.E.T.S.), iii. 864.
Hec lacerta, A^e *newte*. c 1425 *Lat.-Eng. Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 642, l. 27).
Newte or *ewte*, wyrme. Lacertus. 1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 355.
Hec lacerta, a *newtt*. c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 706. l. 9).
Hec lacerta, A^{ee} a *newte*. c 1475 *Pictorial Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 766, l. 22).
A Newt, *lacerta*. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 254 [under *N*; not entered under *E*].
Newte, a *worme*, *lisarde*. 1530 *PALSGRAVE*, p. 248.
Gezo, a *lizard* or a *newte*. 1598 *FLORIO*.
Liguro, an *eft*, a *lizard*, a *nute* or *aske* [ed. 1611: *Ligüro*, an *Eft*, *au*
 [read *an*] *Eute*, an *Aske*, a *Lizard*]. 1598 *FLORIO*.
Lucertola, a *lizard* or *newte*, or *eft* [ed. 1611: a *Lizard*, an *Eft*, a *Neut*].
1598 *FLORIO*.
Marasandola, a *water-lizard* or *newte*. 1598 (and 1611) *FLORIO*.
Ragagno, *Ragano*, an *efte*, a *lizard*, a *nute*, an *aspe* [read *aske*].
1598 *FLORIO*. [Cited also under *eft*].
Ramarro, an *eft*, a *nute*, an *aske*. 1598 *FLORIO*.
Magrásio, an *Eft*, an *Nute*, an *Aske*. 1611 *FLORIO* [not in ed. 1598].
Legart: m. *A newte* or *lizard*. 1611 *COTGRAVE*.
Tassot: m. *A newt* or *Aske*. 1611 *COTGRAVE*.
 Eye of *Newt*, and Toe of *Frogge*,
 Wooll of *Bat*, and Tongue of *Dogge*.
1623 SHAKESPEARE, *Macbeth* iv. 1. (F¹ p. 143.)
Newts and blinde wormes do no wrong.
1623 SHAKESPEARE, *M. V. D.* ii. 2. (F¹ p. 150.)
 The blacke *Toad*, and *Adder* blew,
 The gilded *Newt*, and eyelesse venom'd *Worme*.
1623 SHAKESPEARE, *Timon of Athens*, iv. 3. (F¹ p. 92.)
Poore Tom, that eates the swimming *Frog*, the *Toad*, the *Tod-pole*, the wall-
Neut and the water. 1623 SHAKESPEARE, *King Lear*, iii. 4. (F¹ p. 298.)

87. **Eye**¹, the organ of sight; dialectal *ee*, early mod. Eng. also *cie*, *iey*, ME. *eye*, *eie*, *ei*, *ye*, *yve*, *yee*, *ie*, *iey*, *iee*, *ee*, *i*, *eigh*, *eze*, *eyze*, *ehe*, *eghe*, *eyh*, *igh*, *yze*, etc., with aspiration *hye*, *hie*, *hee*, *hyze*; pl. (a) *eyne*, *eine*, *een*, *ene*, ME. *eyen*, *eyin*, *eyon*, *eien*, *ien*, *yen*, *ine*, *eyne*, *een*, *ene*, *yene*, *ain*, *ayn*, *eighen*, *eghne*, *eyhen*, *eizyen*, *eyzen* (printed *eyzen*, H. 68), *eghene*, *ezene*, *ezen*, *zezen*, *izen*, *yzen*, *yghen*, *yhen*, with aspiration *heyen*, *heyn*, *hegehen*; (b) with double plural termination -(e)n-en, ME. *enyn*, *ehnen*, *ezenen*, *ynon*; (c) with triple plural termination, ME. *hynone*, *hinene* (*y-n-on-e*, *i-n-en-e*); (c) also without the plural -n, ME. *eze*, *heze*, etc.; (d) also with later plural termination -es, -s, ME. *eyes*, *ees*, *yes*, *yees*, *yys*, *oes* (Wr.), *eizes*. See also the plural forms *nine*, *nines*, under **EYE**, II. A. 16.

We find ME. *an eye* taken as *a nye, a ne*.

- (a) God may do, withowten lye,
Hys wylle in the twynkelyng of *an ye*.
a 1500 *MS. Cantab.* Ff. ii. 38, f. 240. (H. p. 944.)

So war we boith, in twynkling of *ane Ee* . . .

1552 LYNDESAY, *The Dreme* (E.E.T.S.), l. 161.

- (b) Hic oculus, hic talmus, A^{oe} *ne*.

c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 675, l. 15).

Hic oculus, An^{oe} *a nye*. c 1475 *Pictorial Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 747, l. 1).

Compare the other *nye* (*my nye, thy nye*, etc.), pl. *nyne, nine*, as develop't from *myn* (*mine*) *eye*, etc. (see EYE, III. A. 6); also *nine, nines* in *up to the nine-s* (see EYE, II. A. 16).

This *nye* from *an eye* exists in several compounds, *birdsnye, pigsnye, pinknye*¹, *pinknye*², *pinknyed, wallnyed*.

(1) **Birdsnye**, pl. *birdnies* as singular, a delicate substitute for *pigsnye* (see next). The taste for pigs in sentiment began to decline, it seems, in the last quarter of the seventeenth century.

Dont talk to a body so: I cannot hold out if thou dost, my eyes will run over, poor fool, poor *birdsnies*, poor lambkin.

1681 OTWAY, *Soldier's Fortune* (Wr. p. 212).

(2) **Pigsnye**, *pigsny, pigsnie, pigs nie, pigsneye, pigsney, pigs-ney*, ME. *pigges nye, piggesnye, pigges-neyghe*, lit. 'pig's eye,' a humorous term of endearment.

She was a prymerole, a *piggesnye* [var. *pigges nye, pygges nye, piggis nye*; also *piggesneyghe*].

c 1386 CHAUCER, *Miller's Tale*, l. 82 (Six-Text, A, 3268).

What & ye shalbe my *pigges nye*.

a 1529 SKELTON, *Manerly Margery*, l. 17. (Ritson, *Anc. Songs*, p. 101.)

Miso, mine own *pigsnie*, thou shalt hear news of Dametas.

1590 SIR P. SIDNEY, *Arcadia*.

Cucco, the bird called a cuckoo, and idle loytring gasing gull. . . . Also taken for a minion, a fauorite or *pigsneye*.

1598 FLORIO.

Vago, beautifull, faire, trim . . . comely, blithe, bonnie vnto the eie . . . also ones fauorite, minion, louer, seruant, *pigs-ney* [1611 omitted], wanton, darling, paramour or harts delight.

1598 FLORIO.

[*Pigsneye* occurs also under *Pincia, Pupo, Tata*.]

Thou art,

As I believe, the *pigsney* of his heart.

1630 MASSINGER, *Picture*, ii. 1. (C.D.)

And here you may see I have

Even such an other,

Squeaking, gibbering, of everie degree

The player fooles deare darling *pigsnie*

He calles himself his brother,

Come of the verie same familie.

1630 *Tarleton's Horse-load of Fooles*. (H. p. 623.)

As soon as she close to him came,

She spake and call'd him by his name,

Stroking him on the head, *Pigsny*,

Quoth she, tell me who made it cry.

1665 *Homer a la Mode*. (N².)

The word is sometimes used for 'eye' simply, and is applied also to the carnation pink (C.D.).

Shine upon me but benignly,
With that one, and that other *pigsney*.

1664 S. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, II. i. 560.

(3) **Pink-nye**¹, also *pinkany*, pl. *pink-nyes*, *pinkanies*, *pinkie-nine*, etc., a small or narrow eye. Compare *pink-nyed*, below. For the middle vowel in *pinkany*, *pinkie-nine*, etc., see remark as to *cockaneg* under EGG, No. 74.

Pink nyez. 1575 LANEHAM, *Letter from Kenilworth* (Ballad Soc. p. 17).

Pinkie nine. 1594 LODGE, *Wounds of Civil War* (Dodsley, *Old P.*, viii. 63).

Pinkany. 1599 *Two Angrie Women of Abingdon*, p. 68. (H.)

The normal form *pink-eye* is found also in use. See C.D.

(4) **Pink-nye**², *pinkney*, *pinkeney*, that which has eyes of a pink or reddish color; applied to a pansy, and to a potato.

Pinkneys. Pink-eyes, a particular species of potatoe with red eyes or ends.

1828 [CARR], *Craven Gloss.* ii. 46.

Pinkeney-John. The heart's-ease, or small original garden pansy. According to Evans [1848], in Leicestershire it is *Pink o' my Johns*.

1854 BAKER, *Northampton Gloss.* ii. 116.

(5) **Pink-nyed**, *pinkanyed*, small-eyed.

Pink-an-ey'd.

1599 *Soliman and Perseda*, p. 274. (H.)

The normal form *pink-eyed* is also found:

Gauzo, bleere-eied, *pinck-eied*, squint-eied, goggle-eyed, whal-eied [1611: bleare-eyde, *pink-eyde*, gogle-eyde, whale eyde]. 1598 FLORIO.

Lucinio, *pink-eide* [1611 *pinck-eyde*], or that hath little eyes. 1598 FLORIO.

Pink-eyed. Small eyed. 1847 HALLIWELL.

(6) **Wall-nyed** = *wall-eyed*, but applied to the horse's color.

Colours [sc. of horses] nowe to knowe attendeth ye:

The baye is goode coloure, and broune purpure,

The lyarde, and the white and browne is sure.

The *walnyed* is goode, also the blake

Is fyne colour, the falowe, and hert hued,

The pomly gray for him I undertake,

The gray, the goldenhered and the skued,

And next hem in merite is dyvers hued

Blacke, bay, and permyxt gray, mousdon also,

The fomy, spotty hue, and many moo.

c 1420 *Palladius on Husbandrie* (E.E.T.S.), iv. 804-813.

The editor in his marginal sketch-paraphrase illuminates *walnyed* here by "walnied." It is to be taken, I think, as 'pie-bald.' Florio defines *gazzo* as "a *whal-eied* horse" and "also a pie coloured horse," "a pide horse."

Gauzo, bleere-eied, *pinck-eied*, squint-eied, goggled-eied, *whal-eied* [1611 whale-eyed]. . . *Gazzo*, *Gazo*, a *whal-eied* horse, a squint or goggle-eie. Also a pie coloured horse. 1598 FLORIO.

Gázso, as *Gáuzo*. Also a pide horse. 1611 FLORIO.

It might at first sight be supposed that *goldney*, *goldny*, the name of a fish, contains this particular *ney*, *nye*; and some doubt has been felt as to the etymology. I find, however, the full form *golden-eye* applied to the fish (it is well established as the name of a duck).

Scaro, a fish that devours all the small fishes he can come unto, and cheweth like a beast: some take it to be the guilthead or *goldeneye*.

Sargon: m. The Gilthead or *Goldeney*. 1598 FLORIO.
Goldney, *goldny*. . . The goldenmaid, golden wrasse, gilthead, or conner, 1611 COTGRAVE.
Crenilabrus melops, or *C. tinca*. 1889 C.D.

The *nye* in *birdsnye*, *pigsnye*, *pinknye*¹, *pinknye*², *pinknyed*, *wallnyed*, is to be pronounced long, or with a diphthong.

This early use (in Chaucer) of the rustical form *nye* in composition helps to confirm the explanation before given of *cockney*, which arose about the same time. See AV, No. 57.

88. **Eyelid**, ME. *eghelyd*, *y3elyd*, etc. I find ME. *an yeled* taken as a *nyeled*.

(a) & hit lyfte vp þe *y3e-lyddez*.

c 1360 Syr Gawayne and the Green Knight (E.E.T.S.), l. 446.
An Eghelyd, cilium, palpebra, palpando [read a *palpando*].

1483 Cath. Angl. p. 112.

(b) Hec palpebra, An^{ce} a *nyeled*.

c 1475 Pictorial Vocab. (Wright, *Vocab.*² 747, l. 2).

89. **Haggler**, formerly *hagler*, a huckster, etc. It is possible that an *eggler*, "one who goes about the country collecting eggs for sale" (H.), was originally an *'aggler*, an *haggler*, or an *'iggler*, an *higgler*, a general huckster whose business was reduced by popular etymology to dealing in eggs (dial. *aggs*, and *iggs*). Otherwise we must explain *eggler* as *egg* + *-ler*, after the supposed analogy of *pedler*, *haggler*, *higgler*, etc.

An *'aggler*, an itinerant huckster, also a bungler, is probably the source of a *noggler* (for a **naggler*), as defined.

(a) Dorsers are peds, or panniers, carried on the backs of horses on which *haglers* use to ride and carry their commodities.

1662 FULLER, *Worthies*, Dorsetshire. (C.D.)

Haggler. The upper servant of a farm. *I. Wight*. 1847 HALLIWELL.

Haggler. A bungler. (Prov. Eng.) 1890 C.D.

Higgler, a huxter or petty dealer owning a cart. The term is recognized in local directories.

1891 C. WORDSWORTH, *Rutland Words* (E.D.S.), p. 17.

(b) *A Nogler*. This is the name formerly given to those people who travelled the country with Sheffield wares; a practice now generally left off there, inasmuch that the name itself is falling into oblivion, as the original of the word has long since done. 1777 *Gent. Mag.* July, p. 321.

Noggler, a bungling person.

1847 HALLIWELL.

[Halliwell derives this from "noggle, to walk awkwardly," but the derivation is probably the other way, like *peddle* from *peddler*, *pedler*, *pedlar*, "burgle" from *burglar*, etc.]

90. **Haterel**, the nape of the neck; ME. *haterel*, *haterelle*, from OF. *haterel*, *hasterel*.

Hasterel: m. as *Hastereau*. *Hastereau*: m. The throat-peece or forepart of the neck, of a hog (belike frō the Wallons, by whom a mans throat, or necke is thus tearmed;) also [etc.]. 1611 COTGRAVE.

We find ME. *an haterelle* as a *naterelle*.

(a) *An Haterelle*, ceruix, ceruicula, diminutium, vertex.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 178.

Also fro the *haterel* of the croun
To the soul of the foot ther doun.

a 1500 (?) *Ashmole MS.* 41, f. 17. (H.)

(b) Nape of an hedde (or *naterelle*, infra). Occiput, cervix, vertex.

1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 351.

Naterelle, idem quod *nape*, supra.

1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 351.

Hic vertex, An^{ce} a *naterelle*.

c 1475 *Pictorial Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 745, l. 14).

91. **Heaving**, raising; applied, like *raising* itself, to yeast. I do not find any example of *heaving* in this sense, but *an heaving*, dial. *an hewing*, appears to be the source of a *neaving*, which I also find in the form *newing*. Compare *ewes* for *eaves*, under EVET, No. 86 (4).

(b) *Neaving*, yeast or barm. 1681 WORLIDGE, *Dict. Rusticum.* (P. p. 582).
Newing. Yeast, or barm. *Essex.* 1790 GROSE; also 1847 HALLIWELL.

92. **Heel-to**, from *heel*, originally *heeld*, *heald*, *hield*, ME. *heldan*, AS. *heldan*, *hyldan*, incline, lean, + *to*. Compare *lean-to*, a small building supported on one side by a larger building or by an alreedy existing wall, a shed, a pentice; *heeling*, “*ealin*”, a shed set against another building; a *lean-to*” (1875 Nodal and Milner, *Lancashire Gloss.* p. 114). I do not find *heel-to*, but *an heel-to* must be the original of a *neel-to*, a *neal-too* in Coles.

(b) *Neal-too* [1717 *neel to*], a deep bank or shore without showing.

1692 COLES, *Eng. Dict.*

93. **Heir**, ME. *heir*, *hair*, *hayre*, *eir*, *eyr*, *eire*, *eyre*, *air*, *ayre*, OF. *heir*, *eir*, L. *heres*. ME. *an ayre* appears as a *ayre*.

(a) And Adames *eyres* beoþ parted on þre.

c 1250 *On Serving Christ*, l. 27 (*Old Eng. Misc.*, E.E.T.S., p. 91).

& sothely sende to Sare a soun & *an hayre*.

c 1360 *Cleanness*, l. 666 (*Early Eng. Allit. Poems*, E.E.T.S., p. 57).

Hic *heres*, *an are*.

c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 683, l. 31).

An ayre, *heres* [etc.].

1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 12.

Haeres, *ane aire* of land or geare.

1595 DUNCAN, *Appendix Etymologicæ* (E.D.S. 1874).

(b) Eue for Abel thought ful fair

þat god had sent hir suilk *an air* [var. *an nayre*, *an eir*].

c 1300 *Cursor Mundi* (Cott. ms., E.E.T.S.), l. 1211.

This is a *nayre*, and a kny3t.

c 1420 *Anturs of Arther*, xxvii. l. 11

(Robson, *Three Metr. Rom.*, Camden Soc., p. 13).

94. **Herring.** An 'erring becomes a nerring.

- (b) "What 'ave you got there?" asked Mac. "*A nerring!*" said Benny.
a 1882 Froggy's Little Brother, p. 62. (P. p. 569.)

95. **Hickon, Hickin.** From *Hick*, ME. *Hicke, Hikke, Hykke*, like *Dick*, a familiar form of *Richard*, was formed the diminutive *Hickon, Hickin*, evidenced by the existing surnames *Hickin, Hickin, Hickins, Hickens, Higgin, Higgins, Dickinson, Higginson*, and by the assimilated form *Hichin* existing in the surnames *Hitchen, Hitchens, Hitchins* (formerly *Hychyns*), *Hitchinson*.

Hickon, Hickin, was probably applied, like the related *Hichcock* (see No. 96), to any simple fellow; hence, from *an hickin* we have a *nickin*, a simple fellow. Compare *nickycox*, below.

- (b) *Nickin, Niquey*, or *Nizey*, a soft simple fellow; also a diminutive of *Isaac*.
 1796 GROSE, *Dict. Vulg. Tongue* (also ed. Egan, 1823).
 [The last statement is not etymologically true as to *Nickin*.]
Nickin. A soft simple fellow. 1847 HALLIWELL.

96. **Hichcock, Hitchcock, Hickcock**, from **Hich, Hitch* (still existing as a surname), *Hick*, + *cock*, familiarly used as a diminutive (so *Roggercock, Wilcock, Hancock*, and many other names). *Hichcock* is thus, like *Dicky*, a diminutive of *Richard*. It survives as a surname, *Hitchcock, Hickcock, Hickok, Hickcox, Hickox*.

"Some ca's me Jock, some ca's me John,
 Some disna ken my name;
 But whan I'm in the king's court,
Mitchcock is my name."
 "*Mitchcock!* hey!" the lady did say,
 And spelt it oure again;
 "If that is your name in the Latin tongue,
 Earl *Richard* is your name!"

Earl *Richard* (B) (Kinloch, *Anc. Scottish Ballads*, p. 15; Child, *Ballads*, iii. 395).

"In some places they call me Jack,
 In other some they call me John;
 But when into the Queen's Court,
 Oh then *Lithcock* is my name."
 "*Lithcock! Lithcock!*" the lady said,
 And oft she spelt it over again;
 "*Lithcock!* it's Latin," the lady said,
 "*Richard's* the English of that name."

Earl *Richard* (A) (Motherwell, *Minstrelsy*, p. 377; Child, *Ballads*, iii. 269).

Mitchcock and *Lithcock* in these two ballads are plainly from one source. That source must have been *Hitchcock, Hichcock*. *Mitchcock* and *Lithcock* are in fact "Latin," that is, unintelligible in English; doubtless in the original version the name was *Hitchcock, Hichcock*; and "*Richard's* the English of that name."

From being a common diminutive name, with a touch of contempt,

Hichcock came to be used as a mere appellativ, a fool; and from *an hichcock*, an **hickcock*, we hav in a more diminutiv form, a *nicky-cox*, a fool.

- (a) Among whom this *hichcocke* missed his rapier; at which all the company were in a maze; he besides his wits, for he had borrowed it of a speciall friend of his, and swore he had rather spend 20 nobles.
1627 *Fests of George Peele*. (C.D.)
(b) *Nicky-cox*, s. A simpleton. *Dev.* 1857 WRIGHT.

Compare the diminutiv form *hitchy-cock*, applied to some childish game.

We have, and no doubt, so have other counties, a great variety of amusing games, active and sedentary. . . . *Blind-hob*, Blind-man's buff, . . .
Hitchy cock ho, . . . *Horny hic*, Hot cockles . . . *Jack's alive*, *Jack be nimble*, Jib job *Jeremiah*. . . . 1823 MOOR, *Suffolk Words*, p. 238.

97. **Hick Ninny**, a name parallel to *Tom Fool*, as a common appellativ *Tom-fool*; *Tom Noddy*, *Tom-noddy*; *Nicol Neddy* (see No. 70). To an *hick-ninny* is perhaps due a *nick-ninny*.

- (b) *Nick Ninny*. A simpleton.
1796 GROSE, *Dict. Vulgar Tongue* (also ed. Egan, 1823).
Nick-ninny. A simpleton. *South*. 1847 HALLIWELL.

98. **Hobby**¹, *Hobbie*, a diminutiv of *Hob*, a familiar form of *Rob* for *Robert*. Hence as a generic term (like *hob*, a clown), *hobby*, *hobbie*, dial. *hubbie*, a stupid fellow, a goose. And an *hobby* becomes a *nobby*, a fool.

- (a) *Hobby* . . . 2. A stupid fellow. (Prov. Eng.) 1890 C.D.
Hubbie, s. A dull, stupid, slovenly fellow. Roxb. 1866 JAMIESON.

It would seem more likely that 'goose' (H.) is the earlier sense, the source of the personal use; but *hobby*, a goose, would then call for explanation. The fact is, that *Hob* for *Robert*, with certain other familiar names of similar kind, has undergon an extraordinary development of form and application; which must be reservd for an other paper.

- (b) *Nobby*, a fool. 1830 FORBY, *Vocab. East Anglia*, p. 233; also 1847 HALLIWELL.

99. **Hobby**², ME. *hoby*, OF. *hobi*, *hobin*, a small horse. An *hobby* has become in childish use a *nobby*, like a *nobby-colt* for an *hobby-colt*.

- (a) *Hobby*, a horse of Irelande, hobyn. 1530 PALSGRAVE, p. 231.
Hobby, a little Irish Nag. 1707 *Glossographia Anglicana Nova*.
Hobby, a small horse. It is observable that Johnson has not given, nor Todd supplied, the sense in which we and others use this word, which is synonymous with poney. 1830 FORBY, *Vocab. East Anglia*, p. 162.
(b) *Nobby*. A very young foal. 1830 FORBY, *Vocab. East Anglia*, p. 233.
Nob, *Nobby*. — (1) A child's name for a foal. (2) The call for a foal.
1889 PEACOCK, *Manley and Corringham Gloss*. (E.D.S.), p. 372.
Nobby, used in calling a colt.
1890 ROBERTSON, *Gloss. of Glouc. Dial*. (E.D.S.), p. 104.
Nobby. The child's name for a colt. "There's a purty little nobby."
1891 CHOPE, *Dialect of Hartland* (E.D.S.), p. 60.

100. Hobby-colt, from *hobby*² + *colt*. An *hobby-colt* is the original of a *nobby-colt*.

(b) *Nobby-colt*. A young colt. *Glouc.*

1847 HALLIWELL.

I do not find *hobby-colt* in its proper form, but it naturally accompanies *hobby-horse*. Of *hobby-horse*, in its literal sense, most dictionaries give neither definition nor examples. I therefore add some quotations to establish it.

Vbinetto, a little yong *hobbie-horse*. Vbino, a *hobbie horse*, such as Ireland breedeth.

1598 FLORIO.

Vbinétto, a little *Hobbie*, or Irish horse. Vbino, a *Hobbie*, or Irish horse.

1611 FLORIO.

Brag. But O, but O.

Boy. The Hobbie-horse is forgot.

Bra. Cal st thou my love Hobbi-horse.

Boy. No Master, the *Hobbie-horse* is but a *colt*, and and your Loue perhaps, a Hacknie.

1623 SHAKESPEARE, *Love's Labours Lost*, iii. 1 (F¹. p. 128).

101. Hodcock, a diminutiv of *Hod*, which is a shorter form of *Hodge*, as a common appellativ (see 102). An *hodcock*, parallel to an *hodgecock* (102), must have existed as the original of a *nodcock*, which, though probably associated with *nod*, could not be formed from *nod*.

(b) *Nodcock*. A simpleton. *Somerset.*

1847 HALLIWELL.

Nodcock was also used adjectively :

So *nodcoke* I that long Have served thee like a slave,
For my reward, by dew desert, Repentance gained have.

1577 BRETON, *Floorish upon Fancie*, p. 22. (D.)

102. Hodgecock, a diminutiv of *Hodge*, parallel to *Hichcock* (No. 96). *Hodge* is a familiar form of *Roger*, *Rodger*. The form *Rogercok* is found (Bardsley, *Eng. Surnames*, p. 40). *Hodge*, like *Hick*, *Hob*, came to be used as a common appellativ. *Hodgecock* followed the same course ; and an *hodgecock* emerged as a *nodgecock*.

(b) This poore *nodgecock* contriving the time with sweete and pleasaunt wordes with his dareleng Simphorosia.

1575 PAINTER, *Palace of Pleasure*, i. E e 5. (Wright.)

And *nodgecock* still exists provincially in the variant form *nodcock* (see 101). These have no connection, in the first element, with *niddicock* (see under No. 70).

103. Hoddy, diminutiv of *Hod*, as in *Hodcock* (No. 101). This *Hoddy* is found in the compounds (1) *hobby-doddy* (H.) (compare *oddy-doddy*, also *oddy*, also *hobbyman-doddy*, a snail, H.), (2) *hobby-peak*, (3) *hobby-poll*, used, along with the variants *nobby-peak* and

noddy-poll and *noddy-pate*, as presently mentiond, to designate "a weak foolish fellow" (H.).

The original *Hoddy*, though retained in these compounds (where, however, some confusion with other words must, perhaps, be allowd), and in the surnames *Hoddy*, *Oddy*, *Oddie*, seems to hav early disappear'd from independent use, *an hoddy* being taken as *a noddy*, and *noddy*, by reason of its popular association with *nod*, becoming everywhere prevalent. It was a favorit vituperation in the century from Edward the Sixth to Cromwell the First.

- (b) Few aftercrop much,
But *nodies* [1580 *noddies*] and such. 1573 TUSSEK. (1854 Baker.)
Irus the begger, and Thersites the glorious *noddie*, whom Homer maketh
mention of. 1589 [PUTTENHAM], *Arte of Eng. Poesie* (ed. Arber), p. 58.
Balordo, a foole, a *noddie*, a dizzard, an idiot, a giddie-head. 1598 FLORIO.
Caillette: m. A foole, minnie, *noddie*, naturall. 1611 COTGRAVE.

The word is very frequent in Florio and Cotgrave.

Noddy, Ninny, Sot.

1668 WILKINS, *Real Character*, p. 205.

Hence *noddy* as an adjectiv, and as a verb, and the burlesque Latin-seeming forms *supernodical*, *supernoditie*.

- You present us with an *inane nihil*, a new directory of a *noddy* synod.
1648 *British Bellman* (Harl. Misc. vii. 627). (D.)
If such an asse be *noddied* for the nonce,
I say but this to helpe his idle fit,
Let him but thanke himselfe for lacke of wit.
1600 BRETON, *Pasquil's Fooles-cappe*, p. 24. (D.)
O *supernodical* foole! 1594 *Taming of a Shrew*, p. 828.
The subjects of his *Supernoditie*. 1622 BRETON, *Strange Newes*, p. 3. (D.)

The notion that *noddy* has something to do with *nod* is an old one, but it must be rejected in favor of the etymology here proposed.

- A *Noddie*, qui animi incertus est, & quouis suasu, impulsuq; huc illuc
mutat, & inclinat, because he noddies when he should speake. Vi.
Foole, Dizard. 1617 MINSHEU.

But a fool, reverend lexicographer, is one who speakes when he should noddie.

Pro. But what said she?

Sp. I.

Pro. *Nod-I*, why that's *noddy*.

Sp. You mistooke Sir: I say she did nod;

And you aske me if she did nod, and I say I.

Pro. And that set together is *noddy*.

1623 SHAKESPEARE, *T. G. V.*, i. 1 (F¹, p. 21).

[And more stuff of the same sort, which the author is pleased to attribute to "a quicke wit"]

There is more to be said about *noddy*, and indeed about all the words in this region, but I must not enlarge.

104. Hoddy-peak, in 16th century *hoddypeke*, *huddypeke*; apparently from *Hoddy* + *peak*, taken in the sense of 'hed' or 'poll.' Compare *hoddy-poll* (No. 105). To an *hoddypeak* is due a *noddy-peak*, which was commonly associated with *nod*. See above.

(a) Can he play well at the *hoddypeke*? a 1529 SKELTON, *Magnificence*, l. 1176.

He sayth, "thou *huddypeke*,
Thy lernynge is to lewde."

a 1529 SKELTON, *Why come ye nat to courte*? l. 326.

What, ye brainsicke fooles, ye *hoddypekes*, ye doddypoules!

1562 (?) LATIMER, *Sermons*, fol. 44 b. (C.D.)

It is not clear whether the Scotch *hudpik*, *hudpke*, "a miser" (Jam.), has any relation to the above:

Catyvis, wrechis, and ockeraris,
Hud-pykis, hurdars and garderaris.

a 1530 DUNBAR, *Bannatyne Poems*, p. 28. (Jam. 1808.)

("Hud-pykis are here conjoined with penurious wretches, hoarders, and usurers." Jam., note.)

Mayhew and Skeat explain *hoddypeke*, *huddypeke*, and *hudpik*, together under *huddy-peke*:

Huddy-peke, sb., a hood-pick, one who thieves out of a man's hood, simpleton.

1888 MAYHEW AND SKEAT, *Concise Dict. of Middle Eng.*, p. 118.

Of course there is no such word as "*hood-pick*" except as *hudpik* (*hudpke*) may represent it.

(b) Gocciolone . . . a filthy *nodie peake* [1611 a *noddy-peake*], a sneaker, one dropt downe by chance. 1598 FLORIO.

Benet: m. A simple, plaine, doltish fellow; a *noddipeake*, a ninny-hammer, a pea-goose, a coxe, a sillie companion. 1611 COTGRAVE.

Woodcock slangams, ninnie-hammer, fly-catchers, *noddie-peak* simpletons. 1663 URQUHART, tr. *Rabelais*, I. xxv. (D.)

105. Hoddy-poll, a simpleton; from *Hoddy*, as above, + *poll*, hed. An *hoddy-poll* produces a *noddy-poll*, in early spelling *noddipol*, *nodipol*, *nodypol*.

(a) Wherat much I wonder
How such a *hoddy poule*
So boldly dare controule
And so malapertly withstand
The kynges owne hand.

a 1529 SKELTON, *Why come ye nat to courte*? (R.)

(b) A *nody polle*. a 1529 SKELTON, *Works*, ed. Dyce, p. 142.
Or els so foolyshe, that a verye *nodypoll* nydyote myght be ashamed to say it. 1557 SIR T. MORE, *Works*, p. 709. (C.D.)

[Note the adjectiv use, and the association with *nidiot*, which owes its initial *n* to the same cause. See No. 120.]

Vix tandem sensi stolidus. I now at length hardly understand with much ado, whorson *nodipol* that I am. 1641 Terence in *English*. (Wr.)

Very likely *noddy-poll* was thought to be 'noddy poll,' as if literally 'sleepy hed'; but this was too popular to be correct. With *noddy-poll* compare *noddypoop*, a word hitherto overlooked. It ends like *nincompoop*, but begins earlier:

Tattaméle, a kind of sweete fruete. Also a *noddiepoope*, a gull, or a sot,
a blab, a pratler [last sentence omitted in ed. 1611]. 1598 FLORIO.

106. Homily, ME. *homilie*, from OF. *homilie*. An *homily* becomes in provincial use a *nominy*, meaning 'a set speech' or 'piece,' with variations, as the collected quotations show.

- (a) *An Homilie*. Homilie. 1632 SHERWOOD, *Eng.-French Dict.* (1650).
(b) *Nominy*, A speech, an oration. 2. Complimentary verses, addressed to a bride, immediately after the marriage ceremony, by the first boy in the school, who expects from the bride a present in return.

1828 [CARR], *Craven Gloss*, ii. 12.

Nomine. A long speech. *North*.

1847 HALLIWELL.

Nominy, a set speech or form of words; a prepared oration. 'He gets weel thruff his *nominy*' is said of a town-crier. 'He knows his *nominy* as well as a chotch clerk.'

1877 ROSS, STEAD, and HOLDERNESS, *Holderness Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 101.

Nominy, a long, wordy, and tiresome speech.

1882 NODAL AND MILNER, *Lanc. Gloss.* p. 200.

How a homily, which is a sermon, came to mean "a long, wordy, and tiresome speech," I will not stop to discover.

Nominy, a tale, story. It is generally joined with the word 'long,' as 'a long *nominy*.' It may originally have been a jocular name for a sermon, as the clergy of the Old Church used to begin their sermons with the invocation: "In *nomine* Patris," &c. — in a language the people would not understand. . . . I am told that in the early part of the present century the bounds of the parish of Sheffield were beaten, and that every time the ceremony took place a *nominy* was repeated to children, who were asked to remember the occasion. Nuts and sweet-meats were also given to the children in particular places, in order that they might remember what they had seen in their childhood, and could give testimony hereafter if required. In some parts of Derbyshire, the children, instead of receiving sweet-meats, were flogged.

1888 ADDY, *Sheffield Gloss.* p. 159.

Nominy. A doggerel rhyme, a jingle. I connect this word with Lat. *Nomine*, and group it with other ecclesiastical words that have been handed down from mediæval times; it is an example among many which shows how a word may degenerate. Ex. — *A'e ya t'nomminy off?* i.e. do you know the rhyme by heart?

1892 M. C. F. MORRIS, *Yorkshire Folk-talk, Gloss.* p. 347.

Nominies or Formulas. The word *nominy* is still used to signify formula in Yorkshire and several northern counties.

1892 G. F. NORTHALL, *Eng. Folk-Rhymes*, p. 319.

[The author gives 22 pages of "Nominies."]

The word has no doubt degenerated; but not from Latin *nomine*. For the change of **nomily* to *nominy*, compare the opposit change, in provincial speech, of *chimney* to *chimly*, *chimby*.

107. Horologe, ME. *horologe*, *horlege*, but commonly *h-less*, *orloge*, *orlege*, etc. We find *an orloge* keeping time as *a norloge* or *a norlyge*.

- (a) Hoc orologium, A^{ce} *a horologe*.

c 1475 *Pictorial Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 756, l. 11).

An horlege, horologium [etc.].

1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 188.

- (b) Hoc orilegium, *a norlyge*. Hic oronoscopus, *a orlegge*.

c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 721, l. 33).

A norloge.

a 1500 *Nominale MS.* (H.)

108. Horrible, ME. *horrible*, *orrible*, from OF. *horrible*, *orrible*. We are told "*a norrible tale*."

- (b) The song of "*a norrible tale*" popular some twenty years ago.

1882 PALMER, *Folk Etym.* p. 570.

109. Horrid. We hear of "*a norrid bull-fight*."

Mrs. Merton . . . now exclaimed, with all the vehemence of which her excitable nature was capable, "Where is that abominable wretch as dared to take my own darling boy out to a *norrid bull-fight*?" For though Mr. and Mrs. Merton were excessively wealthy people, yet long residence in the Island of Jamaica had done much for their letter "H," which, as it were, grew wild and luxuriantly among the flowers of speech which both Mr. and Mrs. Merton were in the habit of cultivating.

1882 F. C. BURNAND, *New Hist. of Sandford and Merton*, xiii.

110. Hospital, ME. *hospitalle*, from OF. *hospitalle*. We find ME. *an hospitalle* as *a nospitalle*.

- (a) *An Hospitalle*, cenodochium [etc.].

1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 190.

- (b) *Ospitale*, *an hospital* or a spittle.

1598 FLORIO.

- (b) Hoc hospitalle, *a nospitalle*. *c* 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 719, l. 16).

111. Hosteler, *hostler*, *ostler*, ME. *hosteler*, *osteler*, OF. *hostelier*. ME. *an hostyller* appears as *a nostyller*.

- (a) An Hosteler, vbi *A osteler*.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 190.

In good fayth I wenyd yow had bene *an hosteler* verely.

c 1485 *Conversion of St. Paul*, l. 96. (*Digby Myst.*, N.S.S. 1882, p. 30.)

- (b) Hic hostiarius, *a nostyller*. *c* 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 687, l. 37).

112. Hour, ME. *hour*, *howr*, *houre*, earlier and properly without *h*, *our*, *oure*, *owre*, *ure*. *An hour* (ME. *an our*, *an owre*, etc.) still appears as *a nour*.

- (a) þos laste *on ure* habbeþ i-travailed.

a 1250 *Old Kentish Sermons*, in *Old Eng. Misc.* (E.E.T.S.), p. 34.

An vre [var. *an our*, *on our*, *an hour*].

c 1300 *Cursor Mundi*, Cott. ms. (E.E.T.S.), l. 488.

It was noht half *an our* of dai.

c 1325 *Poem* quoted in *Eng. Metr. Hom.* (ed. Small), p. xv.

Withinne *an oure* of þe nyȝt *an entre* þay hade.

c 1360 *Cleanness*, l. 1779. (*Early Eng. Allit. Poems*, E.E.T.S., p. 90.)

In þe wyche þer is a brenyng wel [wheel]

A þosand tyrnys *an our* about doþ run.

c 1426 (?) AUDELAY, *The xi Pains of Hell.* (*Old Eng. Misc.*, E.E.T.S., p. 212.)

- (b) *A nowar* before the none.

c 1500 *Hunting of the Cheviot*. (Child, *Ballads*, vii. 39: see note, p. 36.)
Three quarters of a *nour*. 1699 (Sept. 13), *Register of St. Andrew's*,

Newcastle; in Burns, *Parish Registers*, p. 192. (P. p. 570.)

More [than] alff a *nore*. 1552 MACHYN, *Diary* (Camden Soc.), p. 29.

[It was the boast of an Oxford guide that he could] do the alls, collidges
and principal hedifices in a *nour* and a *naff*.

1853 BRADLEY, *Verdant Green*, pt. i., ch. v. (P. p. 569.)

In des 'bout half n'our, honey, bofe un um wuz back in de new groun'
des like dey never heer'd er no well.

1881 J. C. HARRIS, *Uncle Remus*, p. 75.

113. Hub, a slang term for *husband*, more familiar in the diminutiv
form *hubby* (C.D.). From an 'ub we get a *nub*.

- (a) How to die rich? — (Don't tell your wife,
Mayhap she loves her *hub*) —
Just pile assurance on your life,
Then — join a football club!

1892 Quoted from "an insurance organ," in *London Daily News*.

- (b) *Nub*. A husband. A cant term. 1847 HALLIWELL.

114. Humble, also pronounced and formerly written *umble*, ME.
humble, *umble*, OF. *humble*, *umble*. We find "an *umble* person"
living in "a *numble* abode."

- (a) *Umble*. a 1250 *Old Kentish Sermons*, in *Old Eng. Misc.* (E.E.T.S.), p. 30.
Ther ben loveris of suche a sorte
That faynen an *umble* porte.

1393 GOWER, *C. A.* (H. p. 638.)

Den Brer Rabbit talk mighty 'umble.

1881 J. C. HARRIS, *Uncle Remus*, p. 30.

- (b) "I am well aware that I am the *umblest* person going," said Uriah Heep,
modestly; "let the other be where he may. My mother is likewise a
very *umble* person. We live in a *numble* abode, Master Copperfield,
but have much to be thankful for. My father's former calling was
umble. He was a sexton." 1850 DICKENS, *David Copperfield*, xvi.

115. Hunch, a hump, a lump; an assibilated form of *hunk*, which
is probably a free variant of *hump* (compare *lunch* with *lump*).
Hunch and *hunk* ar homely words; literary examples ar compara-
tively few and recent. The primary sense appears to be 'a hump or
protuberance'; but the commoner sense is 'a lump or thick piece,'
especially of bred or cheese. An *hunch* grows into a *nunch*. Com-
pare a *nunk* for an *hunk* (116).

- (a) *Hunch*. A great hunch; a piece of bread. *South*.

1790 GROSE, *Prov. Gloss*.

His wife brought out the cut loaf, and a piece of Wiltshire cheese, and I
took them in hand, gave Richard a good *hunch* and took another for
myself. a 1835 COBBETT. (C.D.)

Hunch. A good big slice, or lump, of bread or meat.

1823 MOOR, *Suffolk Words*, p. 180.

Hunch. A lump of anything. *Var. dial*.

1847 HALLIWELL.

- (b) Bever — Lunch — *Nunsh* — Nunshun. 1823 MOOR, *Suffolk Words*, p. 28.
'Levener — Noonins — *Nunsh* — Lunsh — Nunshen — Bever — (*whel*, and
bait, and *snap*, and *snack*, and *snatch*, altogether extra interpolations,
need not be regularly reckoned) — and Foorzees.

1823 MOOR, *Suffolk Words*, p. 29.

Nunch. The same, perhaps, as *Lunch*. *Nuncheon* and *Luncheon* are old words. 1823 MOOR, *Suffolk Words*, p. 257.

A harnet zet in a hollur tree,
A proper spiteful twoad was he; . . .
A bittle up thuck tree did clim,
And scarnvully did look at him.

They quarrelld; and a woodpecker settled the question for them in good lawyerly fashion, not forgetting his bil:

Just then a yuckel, passin' by,
Was axed by them the cause to try:
"Ha! ha! I zee how 'tis," zays he,
"They'll make a vamous *nunch* vor me."
His bill was shearp, his stomach lear,
Zo up a snapped the caddlin pair!

1847 *The Harnet and the Bittle.* (H. p. xxxi.)

Nunch, Nunchion. The intermediate refreshment between breakfast and dinner; corresponding with *lunch* and *luncheon*, and contradistinguished to the afternoon repast, called *Four o'clock*.

1854 BAKER, *Northampton. Gloss.* ii. 67.

There is no room here to discuss the relation of *nunch* to *nuncheon*. They ar different in origin.

116. Hunk. *An hunk* becomes a *nunk*, speld *nunc* in Halliwell. See the preceding case.

(a) *Hunk.* Same as *Hunch* [viz. "a lump of anything. Var. dial."].

1847 HALLIWELL.

Hunk, sometimes *Hunch*. — A thick piece of bread, bacon, &c.

1888 LOWSLEY, *Berkshire Words* (E.D.S.).

Hunk, Hunch. — The same as *Chunk*.

1889 PEACOCK, *Manley and Corringham Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 283.

(b) *Nunc.* A large lump or thick piece of anything. *South*.

1847 HALLIWELL.

Nunc, s. A thick lump. *South*.

1857 WRIGHT.

117. Huss, ME. *husse*, a dogfish.

Husse, a fysshe, *rousette*.

1530 PALSgrave, p. 233.

Rousette: f. A russetin apple; also, a little Dog-fish, whose ruddie skinne is powdered all ouer with black spots. — *Rousset*: m. A little ruddie Dog-fish.

1611 COTGRAVE.

An husse appears to be the same as the word meagerly enterd as "*nusse*, fissue," in one edition (Pynson's, 1499) of the *Promptorium Parvulorum* (which see, p. 361). Apparently there is a third form, *huske* or *husk*; but this is uncertain:

Huske, fyshe (*husk*, fishe, K.H. *husk* of fyshe, S. P.). Squamus, C.F., squalus, Cath.

1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 254.

118. I, the letter *i*. ME. *an i* (*an y*) is found written a *ny*.

(a) Witt an O and *an I* [var. a *I*, st. 2, 6, 7, 8, etc.].

c 1460 *The Good Wyf wold a Pylgremage* (E.E.T.S.), st. 5.

(b) Witt an O & a *ny*.

c 1460 *Id.* st. 1.

The same refrain occurs in a manuscript cited by Halliwell under *Saint John*, p. 702; and in *Political Poems*, ed. Wright, i. 253, 268, etc.

119. **Ickle**, also *iccle*, dial. *eccle*, *eeccle*, etc., an icicle, the second element of *icicle*, formerly *ise-ickle*, from *ice* + *ickle*. We find ME. *an ykle* written *a nykle*. The word has undergone many other transformations; as may be shown later.

- (a) *Ickle*. An icicle. 1888 ADDY, *Sheffield Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 116.
 (b) *A nykle*. a 1500 (?) *Med. Ms. Cant.* (Way, p. 259.)

120. **Idiot**, formerly also *ideot*, *idiote*, etc. This has produced three distinct forms with the adherent *n*, each with several variations.

(1) *Idiot*, formerly *ideot*, ME. *idiot*, *ydiot*, *idiote*, *idyote*, *ydyote*, etc., from OF. *idiote*. *An idiot* appears as *a nidiot*.

- (a) pou sais to me as til a sott,
 Haldes pou me for *ani* [read *ane*] *idiot* [*var.* *wenyst* pou I be a fole]?
 c 1300 *Cursor Mundi* (Cott. ms.) (E.E.T.S.), l. 10456.

And wostow why? for thow were wont to chace
 At Love in scorne, and for despite him calle,
 'Seinte *Ydiot*,' 'Lorde of thise fooles alle.'

c 1374 CHAUCER, *Tr. & Cr.* i. 908.

Idyote, neither fowle ne ryght wyce (*idyote*, halfe innocent, H.P., *idyothe*, nodyr fool, noþer wyse, S.). *Idiota*. 1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 258.

I have knowne . . . many other learned men that haue bene very *Idiots* in maner of any worldly pollicy that they had.

1581 STAFFORD, *A Compendious or Brief Examination* (N.S.S.), p. 21.

Ane Ideot preist Essay compaireth, plaine,

Til ane dum dogge that can nocht byte nor bark.

1602 LYNDESAY, *Thrie Estais* (E.E.T.S.), l. 3887.

- (b) A verye nodypoll *nydyote* myght be ashamed to say it.
 1557 SIR THOMAS MORE, *Works*, p. 709.

He's such a *nidiot* as I nivver seed afore.

1877 PEACOCK, *Lincolnshire Gloss.* (P.)

Nidiot. — An idiot.

1889 PEACOCK, *Manley and Corringham Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 369.

(2) With a little expansion *idiot* appears as *idiwit*, in Scottish brogue *idiwut*, and *an idiwit* takes on the candid appearance of *a niddywit*, a simpleton, in popular exegesis one who has only the 'wit' of a 'niddy,' *niddy* being one of the guises of our simple-minded young friend *eddy* (see No. 70).

- (a) *An idiwit*. a 1835 WILSON, *Noctes Ambrosianæ*. (P.)
 (b) *Niddywit*, s. A simpleton. *Durh.* 1857 WRIGHT.

(3) *Idiot* is often reduced to two syllables, *id'yot*; it is then assibilated **idjot*, *idget*, **ijjet*, *ijjit*, dial. *udgit*, *eejit*. *An idiot*, pronounced thus *an idyot*, **ijjet*, *ijjit*, emerged in the seventeenth century as *a nidget*, speld also *nigget*, *nigit*, *nigeot*, the last apparently showing a consciousness of its relation to *idiot*, as then commonly speld *ideot*.

- (a) Thou *udgit*, quo hoo, but wher dus hee dwel?

1847 *A Lancashire Ballad*, l. 11. (H. p. xxiii.)

[Medicus Hibernicus loq. :] *Ijjits*! 1873 CHARLES READE, *A Simpleton*.

I note *eejit* in a "dialect" story in the *Century Magazine*, July, 1892. I am sensible that "dialect" stories are often disappointing as sources of dialect forms, but they can always be relied upon to supply examples of idiots.

- (b) It [that is, the old word *niding*] signifieth, as it seemeth, no more than abject, base-minded, false-hearted, coward, or *nidget*.

1605 (?) CAMDEN, *Remaines*, p. 31. (N.)

[The etymology here suggested is of course erroneous.]

This clean *nigit* was a foole,
Shapt in meane of all.

1608 ARMIN, *Nest of Ninnies*. (H.)

Fear him not, mistress, 'tis a gentle *nidget*, you may play with him.

1653 MIDDLETON, *The Changeling* (*Anc. Dr.* iv. 267). (N.)

Nigon, *Nigeon*, *Nigeot*, an idiot, or fool.

1692 COLES, *Eng. Dict.*

[*Nigon* is a different word (C.D. s.v.); *nigeon* seems to be manufactured to serve as the "missing link."]

Nidget. A fool. A corruption of *an idiot*. [With quot. from *The Changeling*.]

1854 BAKER, *Northampton Gloss.* ii. 54.

The word *nidget* was easily associated with the French verb *niger*, trifle, and the nouns *nigaud*, *nigeur*, which Cotgrave translates by *nidget*.

Nigaud: m. A fop, *nidget*, ideot; a dolt, lobcock, vaine, trifling, or loytering fellow.

1611 COTGRAVE.

Niger. To trifle; to play the fop, or *nidget*.

1611 COTGRAVE.

Nigeries: f. *Nidgeries*, fopperies, fooleries, trifles, nifles, friulous bables.

1611 COTGRAVE.

Nigeur: m. A *nidget*, fop, trifler.

1611 COTGRAVE.

121. Imper, one who imps or grafts; ME. *imper*, *ymper*, *impare*, etc. *An ymper* became a *nymper*.

- (a) *Impare*, or graffiere (gryfflar, K.P.). Insertor, surculator.

1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 259.

- (b) Hic plantator, a *nymper*. c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 687, l. 5).

122. Imposteme, later *imposthume*, properly *aposteme*, later *apostume*. *Imposteme* seems to have suffered reduction to **impost*, an **impost* then emerging provincially as a *numpost*.

- (a) *An Apostem*, *Apostema*.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 11.

An Imposteme, *Apostema*.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 195.

- (b) *Numpost*. A deafness or disorder in the ear or head. "*Numpost* i' the hid." *An impostume* probably.

1823 MOOR, *Suffolk Words*, p. 257.

Numpost, an imposthume. This dreadful malady in the head must of course produce stupor. We should say, it makes a man "as *num* as a post." V. *Num*.

1830 FORBY, *Vocab. East Anglia*, p. 236.

Numpost. An imposthume. *East.* 1847 HALLIWELL. Also 1857 WRIGHT.

123. Inch, ME. *inche*, *ynche*, AS. *ynce*, *inçe*. We find an *inch* as a *ninch*, ME. a *ynche*.

- (a) *Ane inche* fro þe elbowe he ochede it in sondyre.

c 1440 *Morte Arthure* (E.E.T.S. 1865), l. 4247.

Pollisium, an^{ce} *an ynche*.

c 1450 *Lat.-Eng. Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 604, l. 1).

- (b) Hoc pollicium, *a nynche*. c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 680, l. 5). *Ninch*. — An inch. "She wo'd n't sell mē so much as *a ninch* of tappe." 1889 PEACOCK, *Manley and Corringham Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 370.

124. Irked, formerly also *yrked*, *erked*, perfect participle of *irk*, ME. *irken*, *yrken*, *erken*, vex, weary. An *irked* (*erked*, **arked*) man would probably appear sometimes as a **nirked* (**nerked*, *narked*) man. Hence the dial. *narked*, vext.

- (a) Some in the flame their *irked* bodies cast.
1557 SURREY, tr. *Virgile, Æneis*, bk. ii. (Richardson.)
With his bald head he was so much *yrked*, that hee tooke it as a reproach unto himself if anyman els were either in bord or good earnest twitted therewith. 1606 HOLLAND, tr. *Suetonius*, p. 270. (Richardson.)
(b) *Narked*, p. pa. vexed, angry. He wor *narked* about it.
1888 ADDY, *Sheffield Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 155.

The other form **nerked* is probably the source, through **nerky*, of the dialectal *nerly*. Compare *pesky* for **pesty*, *nasty* for *nasky*; also *firk* and *firt*, *jerk* and *jert*, *perk* and *pert*.

Nerty, adj. irascible, short-tempered. See *narked*. "A *nerty* sort of fellow." 1888 ADDY, *Sheffield Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 156.

125. Irker, that which irks or troubles; applied to a thing hard to do or to 'beat,' or to a person hard to 'beat.' This word, which is not recognized in the standard dictionaries, appears also in the disguised form, *an irker* as a *nirker*, speld also *nurker*. Compare IRKED above and IRKING below.

- (a) *Irker*, i.q. *Nirker*, q.v. 1881 EVANS, *Leic. Words* (E.D.S.), p. 176.
(b) *Nirker*. The finishing stroke, the last blow. "That's a *nirker*." 1854 BAKER, *Northampt. Gloss.* ii. 58.

Nurker, a person who displays great skill or dexterity; anything of a superior quality.

1877 ROSS, STEAD, and HOLDERNESS, *Holderness Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 102.
Nirker, a 'clencher'; a finishing stroke; a crowning effort. The word, I imagine, should be written, not 'a *nirker*' but 'an *irker*,' i.e. something that will irk or trouble any opponent to beat, a 'botherer.' 'That's a *nirker*!' is a phrase equally applicable when the ace of trumps is laid down at whist, when a hunter clears a 'rattling bull-finch,' when a prize-fighter plants a straight blow between the eyes, or when Major Longbow relates his Eastern experiences.

1881 EVANS, *Leic. Words* (E.D.S.), p. 200.

126. Irking. This participial adjectiv, literally 'vexing,' parallel to the other participial adjectiv *irked*, is used, like *irker*, with reference to something which it would be 'hard to beat.' An *irking* thing appears as a *nirking* (*nurking*, *nurkin*) thing.

- (b) *Nurkin*, surpassing; superlative. 'Mine's a *nurkin* watch; it beats chotch clock bi hauf-an-hoor a day.' 1877 ROSS, STEAD, and HOLDERNESS, *Holderness Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 102.

127. Island, properly *iland*, ME. *iland*, *yland*, *eiland*, etc., AS. *igland*. ME. *an eilond* appears as *a neilond*.

- (a) Biloken hem and sen this fis,
An eilond, he wenen it is.
c 1230 A Bestiary, l. 529. (*Old Eng. Misc.* E.E.T.S., 1872, p. 17.)
An Eland, Mediampnis, mediampna (A.). 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 112.
Isola, an ilande . . . Isolano, Isolare, an ilander of *an iland*. 1598 FLORIO.
- (b) Cethegrande [whale] is a fis
 ðe moste ðat in water is,
 ðat tu wuldes seien get,
 Gef ðu it soge wan it flet
 ðat it were *a neilond*
 ðat sete one ðe se sond.
c 1230 A Bestiary, l. 499. (*Old Eng. Misc.*, E.E.T.S. 1872, p. 16.)

128. Isle, properly *ile*, ME. *ile*, *yle*, from OF. *ile*, later *isle*. ME. *an yle* is viewd as *a nyle* (misspeld *nylle*).

- (a) & he let him lede in to *an yle*, vor to hele is wounde.
 1297 ROBERT OF GLOUC. f. 67 b.
 An in *an yle* [var. *ile*] amydde the wilde see . . .
c 1385 CHAUCER, L. G. W. l. 2161.
An Ile, insula. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 194.
An yle that earst no ylande was.
 1556 ROBINSON, tr. More's *Utopia* (ed. Arber), p. 166.
 (b) Hec insula, *a nylle*. *c 1450 Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 737, l. 11).

129. Oaf, dial. *awf*, *auf*, formerly *aufe*, *auph*, *oph*, *ouph*, *olf*, *aulf*, etc.; a variant of *elf*, *alf*, ME. *elf*, *alf*, AS. *ælf*. I find *an oaf* taken as *a noaf*. Compare *a nauwus-bore* for *an *auwes-bore*. See *elf-bore* (No. 79).

- (a) Though he be *an aufe*, a ninny, a monster, a goos-cap.
 1621 BURTON, *Anat. Mel.* 1, 2, 4, 6. (Evans, *Leic. Gloss.* p. 203.)
 And art thou such *an oph* to be vex'd at this?
 1671 DRYDEN, *Mock-Astrologer*, ii. (Richardson.)
Oaf. A fool; still in use. 1847 HALLIWELL.
Oaf, a blockhead, an idiot. 1859 DICKINSON, *Cumberland Gloss.* p. 79.
Awf, an elf, an idiot, a changeling.
 1875 NODAL and MILNER, *Lanc. Gloss.* p. 18.
Oaf, a half-wit. *Oafing*, playing the fool. *Oafish*, ridiculous.
 1876 ROBINSON, *Whitby Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 134.
Oaf, an awkward blundering lout.
 1877 ROSS, STEAD, and HOLDERNESS, *Holderness Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 102.
Oaf, vb. To play the fool . . . *Olf*, vb. Used of horseplay.
 1890 ROBERTSON, *Gloss. of Glouc. Dial.* (E.D.S.), pp. 106, 107.
 (b) *Noaf*, sb. An oaf, fool.
 1890 ROBERTSON, *Gloss. of Glouc. Dial.* (E.D.S.), p. 104.

130. Oak, ME. *oke*, *ooke*, *ake*, *ak*, AS. *āc*. ME. *an oke* (*ooke*, *ok*, *ak*) grows into *a noke* (*an noke*, *a nok*, *a nak*).

- (a) But so nyl noght *an ooke* when it is caste.
c 1374 CHAUCER, Tr. & Cr. ii. 1389.
 Ruyd armes as *an ake* with rusclede sydes.
c 1440 Morte Arthure (E.E.S.S. 1865), l. 1096.

Betwixt *an oke* and a greene hollen.

a 1650 *Marriage of Sir Gawaine*, l. 55, and 102 (*Percy Folio MS.* i. 109).

And as he neghet bi *a noke*,
The king sturenly him stroke.

c 1420 *Avowynge of King Arther* (Robson, *Three Metr. Rom.*), p. 64.

- (b) Bothe the 3onge and lees
He hongus on *a noke*.

c 1420 *Id.* p. 65.

Hec quercus, -ci vel -cus, *a nak*.

c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 716, l. 7).

My neb is netherit as *a nok*, I am bot ane Owle.

c 1453 HOLLAND, *Houlate*, l. 57. (Donaldson, *Suppl.*
to *Jamieson's Sc. Dict.* p. 175.)

Ther may no man stonde hys stroke,
Thogh he were as stronge as *an noke*.

a 1500 *MS. Cantab.* Ff. ii. 38, f. 166. (H. p. 580.)

For another species of *noke*, see II. A. 11.

131. Oak-apple. ME. *an oke-appell*, *ake-apple*, takes the form of
a nake-appylle.

- (a) *Oke-appell.* *a* 1475 *Gl. Harl.* 3388 (*Sax. Leechdoms*, iii. p. 340.)
An Ake apylle, galla. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 5.
Oke apple, pomme de chesne. 1530 PALSGRAVE, p. 249.
Gala, . . . *an oke apple* or galnut, which serueth to make inke with.

1598 FLORIO.

- (b) Hec galla, *a nake-appylle.* *c* 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 716, l. 9).

132. Oar, ME. *ore*, *are*, *ar*, AS. *ār*. ME. *an ore* becomes *a nore*.

- (a) And sone dede he leyn in *an ore*. *c* 1300 *Havelok*, l. 718.
Some hente *an oore* and some a sprytt.

a 1500 *MS. Cantab.* Ff. ii. 38, f. 55. (H. p. 788.)

- (b) Hic remus, *a nore.* *c* 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 737, l. 30).

133. Oath, ME. *othe*, *athe*, *ath*, AS. *āþ*. The early ME. *an ath*
appears also as *a nath*.

- (a) (b) Bot þou sal suere me *a nath* [var. *an aþe*, *an ath*, *an oþþ*] . . .

þan suer *a nath* [var. *þat aþe*; 2 mss. different] him Esau.

c 1300 *Cursor Mundi* (Cotton ms.) (E.E.T.S.), l. 3542, 3548.

134. Obly, a wafer, ME. *obly*, *obley*, *oble*, from OF. *oublee* (cf.
AS. *oflāte*), from ML. *oblāta*. ME. *an obly*, *an oble*, becomes *a*
nobely, *a noble*.

- (a) *Obly* or *vbyly* (brede to sey wythe masse, infra). Nebula (adoria, infra).
1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 361.

Here xall to angylles desend In-to wyldyrnesse; and other to xall bryng
an oble, opynly aperyng a-loft In þe clowddes.

c 1485 *Mary Magdalene*, after l. 2019. (*Digby Myst.* N.S.S. p. 131.)

Oblema, *an obley*. Nebula, *a wafron*.

1500 *Ortus Vocab.* (Way, *Pr. P.* p. 361, note 2).

- (b) Hec osta, hic panis, *a nobely*.

c 1475 *Pictorial Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 754, l. 6).

Nebula, *noble*; vafra, wayfere.

a 1500 (?) *Roy. MS.* 17 C. XVII. f. 26 (Way, *Pr. P.* p. 361, note 2).

135. Oinement, the word now displaced by *ointment*; ME. *oine-ment*, *oynement*, from OF. *oignement*. ME. *an oynement* becomes *a noynement*.

- (a) Make theroff *an oynement*. a 1400 MS. (Wr. p. 667).
Oynement, or *onynment*, infra. Unguentum. 1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 363.
 (b) *A noynement* anon sche made of so grete strengthe.
c 1360 *William of Palerne* (E.E.T.S.), l. 136.
 For to make *a noynement* called *nervalle*. a 1500 MS. (H. p. 574).

136. Ointment, ME. *ointement*, *oyntement*. *An ointment* becomes *a noyntment*, ME. *a noyntement*.

- (a) And *an oyntment* she broght. c 1450 *Townley Myst.* p. 178.
 I noynt with *an oyntment*, Je oynges, conjugat in "I anoynt."
1530 *Palsgrave*, p. 644.
 (b) Hec extremaunccio, *a nentment*.
c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 720, l. 20).
 Noynt your hand with my *noyntement*, and it wyll be hole by and by :
 oygnez vostre main de cest oygnement, et elle sera guerye tantost.
1530 *Palsgrave*, p. 644.
Nointment, ointment. 1876 *ROBINSON, Whitby Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 133.
Een nointment, eye-salve. 1876 *Id.* p. 59.

But *noint*, dial. *nint*, *nient*, to anoint, hence, humorously, to beat, is an aphetic form of *anoint*.

137. Old, dial. *auld*, *aud*, *awd*, *ould*, *owd*, etc., ME. *old*, *ould*, *ald*, AS. *eald*. *An old man* is often *a nold man*; and so with other nouns.

- (a) *An ould* man sitteth at her knee. c 1430 (ms. 1592) *Chester Plays*, i. 167.
An alde man, gerion; vbi *alde*; geronta, silicernus. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 6.
An alde wyfe, Anus, Anicula, vetula. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 6.
 He hired *an auld* horse, and fee'd *an auld* man,
 To carry her back to Northumberland.
a 1800 *Provost's Daughter*, l. 42 (Child, *Ballads*, iv. 293).
 (b) John Gildenmoth sais wit wisdom
 That he fand in *a nald* bok.
c 1300 *Cursor Mundi* (Cotton ms.), fol. 63. (Wright, *Chester Plays*, i. 255.)
 Hic senior, hic decrepitus, *a nald* man.
c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 683, l. 37).
 Hec anus, *a nold* wyf. c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 692, l. 5).
 [See other examples under *eldfather* (No. 77), *eldmother* (No. 78).]
 The xij. day of Desember in the mornynge was by myse-fortune in sant
 Dunstones in est *a nold* man on [one] master Cottelle a talow-chandler,
 he fell downe in a trape dore and pechyd hys hed a-pone a pesse of
 tymbur, and brust owtt hys braynes, for he was beldyng, so the trape
 dore was left open.
1559 *HENRY MACHYN, Diary* (Camden Soc., 1848), p. 219.
 [Other examples on pp. 137, 164, 277.]
A nold mylne. a 1600 *Monasticon Anglic.* vol. iv. p. 520, i. (Peacock, *Manley and Corringham Gloss.* p. 369.)
 So that we have 'a *nawd* man,' an old man, and even occasionally 'two
nawd men.'
1877 *ROSS, STEAD, and HOLDERNESS, Holderness Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 5.

138. **Onion**, dial. *inion*, *inyon*, *ingon*, ME. *onzon*, *onzone*, *oynon*, *hunyn*, *oingnun*, etc., from OF. *oignon*. ME. *an onzone* is found as *a nonzone*.

- (a) Cepa, an^{ce} *an oynon*. c 1450 *Lat.-Eng. Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 572, l. 5).
Hoc sepe, indeclinabile, & *hunyn*.

c 1475 *Pictorial Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 785, l. 40).
Onzon, bilbus, cepa, cepe. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 260.
Onyon. 1668 WILKINS, *Real Character*, p. 74.

Different people have different opinions,

Some like apples, some like *inions*.

1887 Quoted in DONALDSON, *Suppl. to Jamieson's Sc. Dict.* p. 142.

- (b) Hoc sepe, *a nonzone*. c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 710, l. 26).

139. **Oosel** or **oozel**, less properly speld (for the regular pronunciation) *ousel*, *ouzel*; ME. *osel*, etc., AS. *ōsle*. ME. *an osul* (*a nosylle*), appears also as *a nosul*, *a nosylle*.

- (a) Merula, *an osill*; aus. 1595 DUNCAN, *Appendix Etymologiæ* (E.D.S. 1874).

- (b) Nodosa, *a nosul*, avis est.

c 1450 *Lat.-Eng. Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 597, l. 48).

A Nosylle, quedam Aus, merulus, merula.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 256 (under N).

140. **Oration**, a speech; in provincial use also public talk, rumor, noise, fuss, confusion, pother. *An oration* has become in provincial use *a noration*. Compare the change of *an homily* to *a nominy*, in like extended uses (see No. 106).

- (a) *Oration*. A public talk, a noisy rumour. One lately arraigned for theft, said he intended to restore the goods that he pretended to have found — as he “expected there would be *an oration* about them, sune.”

1823 MOOR, *Suffolk Words*, p. 260.

Oration, A confused noise, an uproar. Thus a mother would say to her turbulent children, “for seur, barns, what *an oration* ye mak.” It also frequently means a public report or rumour, as “this robbery hes maad a feaful *oration* i’t’h country.”

1828 [CARR], *Craven Gloss.* i. 20.

Oration. Noise; uproar. *Var. dial.*

1847 HALLIWELL.

Oration. A public talk, a noisy rumour. “The rogues would have been taken, if there had not been such *an oration* about it.”

1854 BAKER, *Northampt. Gloss.* ii. 80.

Oration. A fuss, not necessarily expressed by words. “He makes such *an oration* about everything.”

1875 PARISH, *Dict. Sussex Dial.* p. 82.

- (b) *Noration*, s. Rumour; clamour. 1825 JENNINGS, *Somerset Gloss.* p. 57.

A great nordtion,

A nâtion naise tha nawtice made,

About the cost ta be defray’d

Vor the church’s repairâtion.

1825 JENNINGS, *The Churchwarden* (*Somerset Gloss.* p. 137).

Noration, a loud rumour, or, as it were, a roaring general publication of what was meant to be kept secret.

1830 FORBY, *Vocab. East Anglia*, p. 235.

Noration. Rumour, speech. *Var. dial.*

1847 HALLIWELL.

Noration, a noise, rout, uproar.

1868 ATKINSON, *Cleveland Gloss.*

Noration. An unnecessary publication of any piece of news or a secret.

1875 PARISH, *Dict. Sussex Dial.* p. 80.

Noration. 'There seemed a great *noration* about it,' said a rustic to me, meaning an unnecessary discussion or piece of work. And of a certain rose, a gardener said to me, 'It made quite a *noration* when it first came out.'

1876 GOWER, *Surrey Provincialisms* (E.D.S.), p. 97.

Noration. A fuss; a row; a set out or disturbance by word or deed. "What a *noration* there is over this here start, surelye!"

1887 PARISH and SHAW, *Dict. Kentish Dial.* (E.D.S.), p. 108.

Noraaytion.—A long rambling account, as when a poor old woman, greatly interested in her troubles, relates them very fully.

1888 LOWSLEY, *Berkshire Words* (E.D.S.), p. 118.

Noration. Gossip. 1890 ROBERTSON, *Gloss. of Glouc. Dial.* (E.D.S.), p. 104.

Hence the verb *norate* parallel to *orate* as related to *oration*.

Norate . . . To talk officiously and fussily about other people's business.

1875 PARISH, *Dict. Sussex Dial.*, p. 80.

Norating. Chattering, talking over the news of the town. "Don't stand there *norating*." Probably a corruption of *narrating*.

1854 BAKER, *Northampt. Gloss.* ii. 62.

To *norate*, 'to rumor,' 'to spread by report,' is a vulgarism not uncommon in the South. . . . "Purty soon it was *norated* around that Ike was going to banter me for a rassel and shure enuff he did." Bill Arp. . . . The word is probably a corruption of *narrate*, or possibly of *orate*.

1886 C. F. SMITH, *On Southernisms*, in *Trans. Amer. Phil. Assoc.*, vol. xvii. p. 40.

141. Orchard, ME. *orchard, orcherd, orchezard*, AS. *orcerd, orcyrd, ortgeard*. *An orchard* spreads into a *norchard*.

(a) *An Orcherd*, pomerium, pomerium. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 260.

To play hyre in an *horcherd* syde. a 1500 *MS. Ashmole*, 61. (Wr. p. 990.)

(b) Hoc pomerium, a *norchard*.

c 1475 *Pictorial Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 810, l. 5).

142. Ostrich, formerly also estridge; ME. *ostrich, ostriche, ostrige*, etc., from OF. *ostruce, ostrusce*, etc. In ME. *an ostriche* hides its hed, and appears as a *nostryche*.

(a) Fungus boletus et fungus dicitur ales. ¶ Hic docet autor quod fungus habet duas significationes. Nam fungus id est boletus: anglice paddok-stole. Vel est quedam avis, anglice *an ostrich*: quia ut aliqui dicunt est illa qui comedit ferrum, i. ferreos claves: anglice horsenayles.

a 1275 JOANNES DE GARLANDIA, *Liber Æquivocorum Vocabularum.* (Herrtage, *C.A.*, p. 262.)

An Ostriche, fungus, strucio.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 262.

(b) Hic struccio, a *nostryche*. c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 701, l. 36).

143. Other, ME. *other, oðer*, AS. *oðer*, etc. *An other* appears in three visible forms, *an other*, *a nother*, *another*.

(a) *An other*, the original and proper form.

An other kinde he haueth.

c 1230 *A Bestiary*, l. 15. (*Old Eng. Misc.* E.E.T.S., 1872, p. 1.)

Or we, he said, *an other* Crist sal bide. c 1325 *Eng. Metr. Hom.* p. 34.

An oþer noyse.

c 1360 *Syr Gawayne and the Green Knight* (E.E.T.S.), l. 132.

And thens to *an other* part procede.

c 1420 *Palladius on Husbondrie* (E.E.T.S.), i. 818.

Ye haue *an other* sorte of repetition.

1589 [PUTTENHAM], *Arte of Eng. Poesie* (ed. Arber), p. 210.
Harry's children of Leigh, never *an one* like *an other*.

1678 RAY, *Proverbs*, p. 85.

(b) *An other* is also written *a nother*, a form very frequent from the 14th century down. Compare *my nother* for *mine other* (III. A. 10), and *no nother* for *none other* (IV. 2).

And *a noiþer* [var. *a-noþer*, *anopher*] hight Madan.

c 1300 *Cursor Mundi* (Cotton ms.) (E.E.T.S.), l. 3389.

As hit had be *a-nother* wyghte. c 1369, CHAUCER, *Dethe of Blaunche*, l. 530.

Hym liketh best a daubed wough, and he

Wol have a wall of clay and stone, and stones

Withouten clay *an other* wol it be.

A nother with a diche aboute ygone is.

c 1420 *Palladius on Husbondrie* (E.E.T.S.), i. 785.

A whylle sche blewe, *a nother* scho sange.

c 1425 *Thomas of Ersseldoune* (Child, *Ballads*, i. 99).

A nodyr foule full free

Owre messenger salle be.

c 1430 *York Plays*, ix. l. 235 (p. 52).

Here shall come *a-nother* devyll callyd mercury, with a fyeryng, commyng in hast, cryeng and roryng, and shal say as folowyth.

c 1485 *The Conversion of St. Paul*, after l. 432.

(*Digby Myst.*, N.S.S., 1882, p. 44.)

And by thende of the yere all is forgotten, whiche is *a nother* occasyon of murder.

1489 *Stat. Hen. VII.* (Caxton), p. 19.

One said to *an nother* takyng his arme.

1562 HEYWOOD, *Proverbs and Epigrams* (Spenser Soc.), p. 95.

When they be created by *a Nother* name in the right of there wif or mother.

c 1580 (?) *A Book of Precedence* (E.E.T.S., 1869), p. 19.

[Other examples on pp. 14, 16, 17, 19.]

Nother, A.—An other.

1889 PEACOCK, *Manley and Corringham Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 376.

W'en dey done howdyin' en axin' atter one *nudder* fambly kunnexshun, Brer Wolf, he 'low, he did, dat der wuz sump'n wrong wid Brer Fox, and Brer Fox, he low'd der wern't.

1881, J. C. HARRIS, *Uncle Remus*, p. 57.

He know Brer Rabbit wuz atter some projick er *nudder*, en he tuck'n crope off, he did, en watch 'im.

1881 J. C. HARRIS, *Uncle Remus*, p. 73. [And similarly, *passim*.]

(c) *Another*, as if one word.

pou has *anopher* [var. *a-noþer*] man[ne]s wijf.

c 1300 *Cursor Mundi* (Cotton ms.) (E.E.T.S.), l. 2976.

Anothyr ermyte. c 1325 *Eng. Metr. Homilies* (ed. Small), p. 71.

In *anobre* manere. 1340 MICHEL (tr.), *Ayenbite of Inwytt* (E.E.T.S.), p. 257.

Another.

1589 [PUTTENHAM], *Arte of Eng. Poesie* (ed. Arber), p. 60 (l. 11), 225

(l. 5), etc. [*an other*, p. 60 (l. 6, l. 34), 61 (l. 1, 2, 3), 225 (l. 10), etc.].

One while, this little boy he yode,

Another while he ran.

Childe Maurice (Child, *Ballads*, iii. 314).

And so commonly written and printed *another* since the 17th century; without any real reason. *Another* ar the only two words,

of which *an* is one, so written together. It would be better to write them separately, as we write *the other, each other, an eighth, an eleventh*, etc.

144. Otter, ME. *oter*, *otyr*, AS. *oter*. ME. *an oter* (*otyre*) appears as a *notyre*.

(a) Lucterinus, an^{oe} *an Otyr*.

c 1450 *Lat.-Eng. Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 593, l. 40).

Lutericius, *an Oter*. c 1450 *Lat.-Eng. Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 594, l. 10).

(b) Hic lutricius, a *notyre*. c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 700, l. 16).

145. Ounce, ME. *ounce*, from OF. *unce, once*, Lat. *uncia*. *An ounce* appears as a *nounce*, ME. *a nouns, a nowns*.

(a) Which that ne was nat but *an ounce* of weighte.

c 1386 CHAUCER, *Canon's Yeoman's Tale*, l. 355.

(b) Hec uncia, a *nowns*. Hec semiuncia, half a *nouns*.

c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 714, l. 22).

Nounce. — An ounce. "A quarten o' teā fer my missis, an' a *noonce* o' bacca' fer my sen."

1889 PEACOCK, *Manley and Corringham Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 376.

146. Outlaw, ME. *outlawe, outelawe, outlay*, etc., AS. *ūtlaga*. In accordance with his irregular character, *an outlaw* appears in ME. as a *nowtlay* — regardless of expense.

(a) Men clepen hym *an Outlawe* [var. *an outlay*] or a thief.

c 1386 CHAUCER, *Manciple's Tale*, l. 130. (Six-Text, H. 234.)

(b) Hic, hec exul, a *nowtlay*. c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 694, l. 26).

147. Oven, dial. *oon, oom, hoom, yoon, yewn, yown*, ME. *oven*, AS. *ofen*. For the contraction of *oven* to *oon*, compare that of *aboven* to *aboon*. I find *an oven* as a *noven*, and *an oon* as a *noon*.

(a) Hic furnus. A^e *oven*. c 1425 *Lat.-Eng. Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 663, l. 30).
An Owen, fornax, fornacula, furnus [etc.]. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 262.

Oom. An oven. *North*.

1790 GROSE, *Prov. Gloss., Suppl.*

Oon. An oven. *North*.

1847 HALLIWELL.

Hoom. An oven. *Yorksh.*

1847 HALLIWELL.

Yoon. An oven. *Var. dial.*

1847 HALLIWELL.

Yown, Yewn. An oven. "T' yewn isn't yat yit."

1892 M. C. F. MORRIS, *Yorkshire Folk Talk, Gloss.*, p. 401.

(b) Bake hem in a *novyn*. a 1500 *M.S.* (Way, *Prompt. Parv.*; P. p. 569).
Noon, an oven.

1822 J. COLLIER ("TIM BOBBIN"), *Lanc. Dialect, Gloss.*, p. 35.

It begun t' be dark, un I'r beawt scoance [but scone, *i.e.* without a lantern] in a strawnge country, five or suce mile fro whoam: so that I maundert ith' fields oboon two eawers, un cou'd na gawm where eh wur; for I moot os weel o bin in o *noon*. . . . It wur so fearfoo dark.

1822 *Id.* p. 12.

148. Over², ME. *over*, AS. *ōfer*, G. *ufer*, etc., shore, bank. A rare word existing in modern English as *an over* (*overs*) and a *nover*. The regular modern form would be **oover*. The form *over* is probably due to association with the preposition *over*.

- (a) *pat standeþ on þe seis owre.* a 1300 *Havelok*. (H. p. 776.)
Overs, s. pl. The perpendicular edge, usually covered with grass, on the
 sides of salt-water rivers, is called *overs*.

- 1825 JENNINGS, *Somerset Gloss.* p. 58. (Also WRIGHT, p. 717).
 (b) *Nover*. High land above a precipitous bank.
 1875 PARISH, *Dict. Sussex Dialect*, p. 80.

149. Overword, contracted *o'erword*, Scotch *owerword*, *ourword* (Jam.), a word said over again, a refrain. An *o'erword* appears in the form of a *norword*.

- (a) Ay is the *owrword* of the gest,
 Giff thame the pelf to part amang thame.
 a 1530 DUNBAR, *Maitland Poems*, p. 104. (Jam. 1808.)

The Scotts they rade, the Scotts they ran,
 Sae starkly and sae steadilie,
 And aye the *ower-word* o' the thrang
 Was — "Rise for branksome readilie!"

- a 1700 *Jamie Telfer of the Fair Dodhead* (Child, *Ballads*, vi. 111).

The starling flew to his mother's window stane,
 It whistled and it sang,
 And aye the *ower word* o' the tune
 Was — "Johnie tarries lang!"

- Johnie of Breadislee* (Child, *Ballads*, vi. 15; see also iv. 279, viii. 95).

And aye the *o'erword* of the spring
 Was Irvine's bairns are bonie a'.

- a 1796 BURNS, *Lines written at Loudon Manse*.

Ower teunn, *Ower word*, words repeated at the end of a verse; a habitual saying.

1879 DICKINSON, *Cumb. Gloss., Suppl.* (E.D.S.), p. 130.
 With this for an *overword* —
 But where are the snows of yester-year?

- a 1882 D. G. ROSSETTI, tr. Francis Villon.

- (b) *Norwood* [*Norword*?], s. A nickname; a byword. *Leic.* 1857 WRIGHT.
Nor-word, by-word or nick-name. 1881 EVANS, *Leic. Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 202.

150. Owl, ME. *owle*, *oule*, *ule*, AS. *ūle*. An *owl* sometimes seeks further obscurity as a *nowl*, ME. a *nowle*, a *nowele*.

- (a) An *ule* and one niȝtingale. a 1250 *The Owl and the Nightingale*.
 And al day after hidde hym as an *Owle* [var. *houle*, Camb. ms.].

- c 1386 CHAUCER, *Wife of Bath's Tale* (Six-Text, D, 1081).

An *Oule*, bubo, lucifuga, vlula. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 263.

- (b) Wayte nowe, he lokis like a brokex,
 Were he in a bande for to bayte;
 Or ellis like a *nowele* in a stok,
 Full preuaily his pray for to wayte.

c 1430 *York Plays*, xxix. l. 117 (p. 258).
Hec bubo, -is, A^e *nowle*. c 1425 *Lat. Eng. Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 640, l. 28).

Hic bubo, A^{cc} a *nowlle*. c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 701, l. 37).

151. Ox, ME. *ox*, *oxe*, AS. *oxa*. ME. an *ox*, an *oxe* is found as a *nox*, a *noxe*.

- (a) His hert heldet vnhole he [Nebuchadnezzar] hoped non oþer
 Bot a best þat he be, a bol oþer an *oxe*.

c 1360 *Cleanness*, l. 1681 (*Early Eng. Allit. Poems*, E.E.T.S. p. 88).
 An *oxe* I will take with me. c 1430 (ms. 1592) *Chester Plays*, i. 107.

- (b) Hic, hec bos, -vis, a *nox*. c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 698, l. 9).
 He can lowe as a *noxe*. a 1500 *Harl. ms.* 1002 (Wright, *Vocab.*¹ p. 151).

152. Oxbow, ME. *oxbowe*, *oxebowe*. I find ME. *an oxbowe* as a *noxbowe*.

- (a) *An Oxe bowe*, Arquillus, columbar. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 265.
Oxe, a beest, *bevf.* *Oxebowe* that gothe about his necke, *collier de bevf.*
 1530 PALSgrave, p. 250.
 (b) *Hic arquelus, a noxbowe.* c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 728, l. 11).

153. Oxgang, ME. *oxgang*. *An oxgang* becomes a *noxgang*.

- (a) My wyll ys that Jonett, my wyfe, have my chefe maner place and iiij^{or}
oxgange of lande langing therto.
 1443 *Will of Walter Gower*, in *Test. Ebor.* ii. 89. (Hertridge, *C.A.* p. lii.)
An Oxgange of lande, *bovata*. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 265.
Mas de terre. On (read *An*) *Oxegang*, plow-land, or hide of land, containing about 20 acres; (and hauing a house belonging to it).
 1611 COTgrave.
 (b) *Hec bovaga, a noxgang.* c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 737, l. 19).

154. Oxhouse. ME. *an oxhous* appears once as a *noxbows*.

- (b) *Hoc bostare, a noxbows.* c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 727, l. 2).

155. Oyster, ME. *oyster*, *oystur*, *oystre*, *eyster*, *oestre*, from OF. *oistre*, *ouistre*, etc.; M.E. also *oster*, *ostyr*, *ostyre*, *ostre*, from AS. *ostre*. A ME. scribe has opened an *oyster* (an *ostyre*) at one side: a *nostyre*.

- (a) Quod he for many a muscle and many an *oystre* [var. *oyster*, *oystere*].
 c 1386 CHAUCER, *Sumner's Tale*, l. 392. (Six-Text, D. 2100.)
An Ostyr, *ostreum*, *peloris*; *ostreum* quidam *piscis* qui in *ostra* latitat.
 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 262.
 (b) *Hoc ostrium, hec oustria, a nostyre.*
 c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 705, l. 10).

156. Ugly, formerly *ougly*, ME. *ugly*, *ogli*, *uggely*, from Icel. *uggligr*. I find an early ME. instance of an *ugly deed* (an *ogli dede*) taken as a *nogli dede*.

- (a) *An ougly* Fiend of hell.
 1577 KENDALL, *Flowvers of Epigrammes* (Spenser Soc.), p. 271.
 (b) *þai* [Adam and Eve] thought þat kynd him [Cain] mond for-bede
 To haf don suilk a *nogli* [var. *an uncumly*, a *curced*, a *cursed*] dede.
 c 1300 *Cursor Mundi* (Cotton ms.) (E.E.T.S.), l. 1105.

157. Umbank, a bank formed around a breach; from *um-*, ME. *um-*, *umbe-*, AS. *ymbe*, around, + *bank*. Compare Sc. *umbesege*, *umbeset* (Jamieson). I assume an **umbank* to be the original of a *numbank*, a rare provincial word. Compare the Swaledale *down-bank* and *in-bank*, downwards (1873 Harland).

- (b) *Num bank*. — When a breach happens in a bank, it is often impossible to make another bank on the exact spot where the old one stood; in that case, a circle of earth is made round the breach, which is called a *num bank*. The act of doing this has acquired the name of *numming*, or *nomming*. "For making *num bank* 20 roods at 1^s 3^d." — Bottesford Moors Acc., 1812. "You know wheäre that gyme is at Mo'ton; well, when th' Trent bank brust, it wesh'd a grut hoäle, an' thaay'd it to *nom* roond afore thaay could stop it." — East Butterwick, 1876.

1889 PEACOCK, *Manley and Corringham Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 377.

158. Umbersorrow, a curious Scottish word, of uncertain origin. *An umbersorrow bairn* appears sometimes as *a numbersorrow bairn*.

- (a)(b) *Umbersorrow*, adj. 1. Hardy, resisting disease, or the effects of severe weather. *An umbersorrow bairn*, a child that feels no bad effects from any kind of exposure, Border. It is sometimes corr. pron. *numbersorrow*. 2. Rugged, of a surly disposition, Loth.; an oblique sense. [*Ed.* 1882 adds: 3. As signifying "weakly, delicate," Roxb.] 1808 JAMIESON.

159. Urchin, in Burns *hurchin*, *hurcheon*, early mod. Eng. *urchon*, *urchen*, *irchen*, etc., ME. *urchin*, *urchon*, *urchion*, *urchoun*, *irchon*, *irchoun*, *irchen*, *yrchyn*, *erchon*, also *hurchon*, *hyichon*, from OF. *ireçon*, *ereçon*, *heriçon*, etc. I find ME. *an urchon* taken as *a nurchon* or *a norchon*.

- (a) *An Vrchon* (*Vrchion* A.), ericius, erinacius. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 404.
Irchen, a lyttel beest full of prickes, *herisson*. 1530 PALSGRAVE, p. 235.
 A tealier i' Crummil's time wur thrung pooin' turmits in his pingot, an' fund an *urchon* i' th' hadloont-reean.
 1750 J. COLLIER, *Works*, p. 37. (Nodal and Milner, *Lanc. Gloss.*)
 (b) *Hic erinacius*, A^e *nurchon*.
 c 1425 *Lat. Eng. Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 643, l. 15).
A norchon by the fyre rostying a greyhownde.
 a 1500 *Reliq. Antiq.* i. 81. (Herrtage, *C.A.* p. 404.)

160. Yew-tree, formerly *ewe-tree*, *eugh-tree*, etc., ME. *ewtre*, *ewetre*. ME. *an ewtre* undergoes transformation into *a newtre*.

- (a) *An Ev tre* (*Ewetre* A.), taxus; taxinus. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 118.
 If: m. *An Yew*, or *Yew tree*. 1611 COTGRAVE.
 (b) *Hec taxus*, A^e *hawtre* [read *hewtre* ?], *newtre*.
 c 1425 *Lat. Eng. Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 646, l. 13).

161 (89a). Halfing, dial. *halflin*, *hafflin*, *haflin*, a half-grown person, also a half-witted person; from *half* + *-ling*. For the first sense, see Jamieson and the *Century Dictionary*. In the second sense *an halfing*, *an hafflin*, has given rise to *a naflin*, and a *naflin* has been reduced to *a naffin*. *Naflin* being obscure, popular etymology has turned it into *maffling*, *mafflin*, as if meaning a 'maffling' or stammering person.

- (a) *Halfing*. A person who is half-witted. Suth. 1866 and 1880 JAMIESON.
Hafflin, a half wit. 1875 ROBINSON, *Whitby Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 86.
 (b) *Naflin*, the same as *Maffin*.
 1781 HUDSON, *Tour to the Caves*, etc., *Gloss.* (repr. E.D.S. 1873), p. 9, col. 2.
Mafflin, one almost an idiot. See *Naflin*. 1781 *Id.* p. 9, col. 1.
 'Tis a burning sham to see him like a *mafflin* bezzling dawn strang liquors.
 1785 HUTTON, *A Bran New Wark*, l. 455 (repr. E.D.S., p. 203).
Naffin. A simple person, one almost an idiot. North.
 1790 GROSE, *Prov. Gloss.*
Maffling. A simpleton. North. 1847 HALLIWELL; 1857 WRIGHT.
Maff, *Maflin* [1878 *Mafflin*], a simple person.
 1859 DICKINSON, *Cumberland Gloss.* p. 69.

Other cases of Attraction of this kind occur in imitations of the Cockney dialect. For example, "Jemmy Green, or the Cockney Beau," in *The Universal Songster*, 1825-27, i. 160, sings not only of "*a nould ooman*," "*a norrid hould ooman*," and "*a norrible crowd*" (locutions already illustrated, along with "*a nour* and *a naff*" — see 137, 108, 109, 112), but of "*a norse*" which he thought to be "*a nunter*"; and he tels how he, "*a Ninglishman*" in France, got into "*a nell of a nobble*." In the same learned work, which was illustrated by George and Robert Cruikshank and issued by Jones & Co. from the "Temple of the Muses" in Finsbury Square, we read of "*the norse*" (i. 364), "*your norses*" (i. 112, four times), "*fine fat norses*" (i. 112).

Some ME. cases of Attractions of this kind, and others of modern date, have been omitted for lack of proof or for other reasons. Some cases of apparent Attraction, really due to conformation or other causes, have also been ignored. I may mention as an example the provincial "*nauls*, belongings" (*Oxfordshire Words*, Suppl., E.D.S., p. 91), which stands for *nalls*, and this for *alls* (one's *alls*, all one's belongings); being vaguely conformed to *naul*, *nall* for *an awl* (No. 53), or else arising from *an' all* for *and all*.

B. The second division comprises the cases in which a noun has *lost* its initial consonant owing to the influence of the article, namely: Cases involving the article *a*, originally *an*, before consonants as well as before vowels, with a noun beginning with *n*. The initial *n* coalesces with the preceding *a* (or in Middle English was merged with the *n* of the original article *an*), forming what is then regarded as the article *an*, and leaving the noun decapitated.

1. **Nache-bone**, *natch-bone*, rump-bone, from *nache*, *natch*, ME. *nache*, *nage* (from OF. *nache*, *nage*, from LL. *natica*), buttock, rump, + *bone*. *Nache* was rarely used in literary English, and soon disappeared except as in the compound, and in the dialectal form *natch*. The compound then underwent an extraordinary series of transformations, *a nache-bone* being taken as *an ache-bone*, and *ache-bone* being variously twisted in desperate efforts to give meaning to what had become meaningless, namely, (1) *ache-bone* (*ach-bone*, late ME. *hach-boon*), also spelt *aitch-bone*; (2) *H-bone*, (3) *each-bone*, (4) *edge-bone*, and further (5) *ash-bone*, (6) *isch-bone*, *ische-bone*,

ich-bone, (7) *ice-bone*, *ise-bone*, (8) *isel-bone*, and other shapes, even (9) *haunch-bone*, (10) *hook-bone*, and (11) *ridge-bone*.

The word is cleared up by Mr. Nicol (1878), and Dr. Murray (N.E.D. 1884, s.v. *aitch-bone*). I classify the forms, and add some evidence. In his list of forms Dr. Murray omits *natch-bone*, and gives *nage-bone* and *nache-bone* without a quotation for either. I supply a quotation for *nache-bone*. *Nage-bone* is probably theoretical.

- (a) *Nache-bone*, Rump bone. 1828 [CARR], *Craven Gloss.* ii. 2.
Natch. See *nache-bone*. 1828 *Id.* ii. 3.
Natch-bone. 1822 KITCHINER, *Cook's Oracle*, 151. (N.E.D.)
Natch-bone. 1835 BOOTH. (1860 Worcester.)
- (b) (1) Kerue vp the flesh ther vp to the *hach-boon*.
 1486 *Book of St. Alban's*, f. 3 b. (N.E.D.)
Ach-bone, the same as 'an Ice-bone, i.e. a rump of beef, Norf.' Ray.
 1736 PEGGE, *Alphabet of Kenticisms* (repr. E.D.S.), p. 18.
Aitch-bone. 1810 *Domest. Management*. (N.E.D.)
Ach-bone. a 1822 *Prudent Housewife*. (Kitchiner, in N.E.D.)
Aitch-bone. Pronounced *H bone*. The edge bone, so named perhaps from its hatchet shape. "The *H bone* of beef."
 1823 MOOR, *Suffolk Words*, p. 6.
Aitch-bone. The edge bone. *Var. dial.*
 1847 HALLIWELL. Also 1857 WRIGHT.
Aitch-bone. The extreme end of a rump of beef, cut obliquely; probably a corruption of *edgebone*.
 1854 BAKER, *Northampt. Gloss.* i. 10.
Aitchbone, of beef; the extreme end of the rump, cut obliquely.
 1881 EVANS, *Leic. Words* (E.D.S.), p. 90.
- (2) *H-bone*. 1822 KITCHINER, *Cook's Oracle*, 151. (N.E.D.)
H-bone. 1823 MOOR, *Suffolk Words*, p. 6.
- (3) *Each-bone*. c 1818 *Young Woman's Companion*. (N.E.D.)
Each-bone. 1822 KITCHINER, *Cook's Oracle*. (N.E.D.)
- (4) *Edge-bone*. a 1822 HENDERSON, *Cookery*. (Kitchiner, in N.E.D.)
The edge bone. 1823 MOOR, *Suffolk Words*, p. 6; 1847 HALLIWELL, etc.
- (5) *Ash-bone*. c 1818 *Young Woman's Companion*. (N.E.D.)
- (6) *Isch-bone*. c 1818 *Young Woman's Companion*. (N.E.D.)
Ische-bone. a 1822 REYNOLDS, *Cookery*. (Kitchiner, in N.E.D.)
- (7) *Ise-bone*. 1576 *Exp. Queen's Table*. (N.E.D.)
Ice-bone, a rump of beef. *Norf.*
 1691 RAY, *South and East-Country Words* (E.D.S.), p. 84.
Ice-bone, *Nf.* a rump of beef. 1692 COLES, *Eng. Dict.*
Ice-bone, *Ich-bone*, *Membrum bovis posticum*.
 1743 LYE, *Additions to JUNIUS, Etym. Angl.*
Ice-bone. A rump of beef. *Norf.* 1790 GROSE, *Prov. Gloss.*
Ice-bone, a part of the rump of beef. Although it be provincial now, it is nearer to the truth than either *edge-bone* or *aitch-bone*, which have been offered instead of it. The Greek *ισχιον* had passed into the gothic, and thence in due progression to us. 1830 FORBY, *Vocab. East Anglia*, p. 172.
Ice-bone. The edge bone of beef. 1847 HALLIWELL.
- (8) *Iselbon*. An edge-bone of beef. See Arch. xiii. 371. Still in use.
 1847 HALLIWELL.
- (9) *Haunch-bone*. 1773 MRS. MASON, *Ladies Assistant*. (N.E.D.)
- (10) *Hook-bone*. a 1822 MRS. M'IVER, *Cookery*. (N.E.D.)
- (11) *Ridge-bone*. 1822 KITCHINER, *Cook's Oracle*. (N.E.D.)

But the forms *ice-bone*, *ise-bone*, *isch-bone*, *isel-bone* properly represent a different word, *ice-bone*, *ise-bone*, *ize-bone*, *izle-bone*, the hip-

bone; D. "*is-been, isch-been, ijs-been*, ischia, coxendix, os inferius circa nates; & os pubis, os pectinis" (1598 Kilian), "*is-been ofte isch-been*, the haunch" (1658 Hexham), LG. *isben*, whence G. *eis-bein*, Sw. and Dan. *isben*, hip-bone.

Ize-bone, the huckle-bone, the coxa.

1703 THORESBY, *Letter to Ray* (Yorkshire Words) (E.D.S.), p. 102.

Izle, an axle. *Izle-bone*, the axial-bone, where the hip-joints meet the pelvis.

1876 ROBINSON, *Whitby Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 102.

2. **Nadder**, dialectal *nedder* and *nether*, stil in provincial use, a serpent, adder. ME. *nadder*, *nedder*, *neddir*, *neddire*, *neddyr*, *neddyre*, *nadere*, *neder*, *nedyr*, *nedere*, *nedyre*, earlier *naddre*, *neddre*, AS. *næddre*. A *nadder*, a *nedder*, very early became an *adder*, an *edder* (*addre*, *eddre*, etc.), which has mightily prevaild over the original serpent. The dial. *edder* is also found as *ether*, *etherd*, *het-herd*. A *nadder* was one of the first words that yielded to Attraction

An wirm is o werlde . . .

neddre is te name.

c 1230 *A Bestiary*, l. 120 (*Old Eng. Misc.*, E.E.T.S., p. 5).

A *nedder* stert vte of þe sand,

And stanged Iam in þe hand.

c 1300 *Cursor Mundi* (Cotton ms.) (E.E.T.S.), l. 12527

The wonde swelth an aketh

So doth the *naddre* stinge.

c 1315 SHOREHAM, *Poems*, p. 104.

Dragauncia, addyrworthe ys an erbe þt som manne calliþ dragans ober serpentary þis erbe is like to þe colour of an *nadder* all sparklyd.

c 1400 (?) *Gl. Sloane* 5, fol. 13 b. (*Saxon Leechdoms*, iii. 339.)

Eddyr, or *Neddyr*, wyreme. Serpens.

1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 135.

Hec apaphsibena, a *nedyr* with ij. hedes.

c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 707, l. 13).

[Two heds, we ar told, ar better than one; but see to what a pass "ij. hedes" brought the simple Amphisbæna!]

Hic serpens, a *nedyre* . . . Hic idrus, a watyr*nedyre*.

c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 705, l. 35, 37).

Hic serpens, alle maner *naderes*. Hic agguis, A^{ce} a water*adder*. Hic coluber, A^{ce} a snake . . . Hic biceps, hic jaculus, a flynn *nedere*.

c 1475 *Pictorial Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 766, l. 5-14).

A *Neddyr*, Aspis, lacerta (serpens A.), stellio, basilliscus, cicadrillus (serpens, idrus A.).

1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 250.

[“This is probably the latest instance of this, the true form of the word”;

Herrtage, note, l.c. But see below.]

Nedder. An adder. *North*. 1847 HALLIWELL. Also 1857 WRIGHT.

Nether, s. An adder. This in some counties is the invariable pron.

a *nether*.

1866 JAMIESON.

(b) The smale *addren* of which we spaake.

c 1300 *Kyng Alisaunder*, l. 5310. (Weber, *Metr. Rom.* i. 220.)

And [the devele] dede hym in an *addre* wede.

c 1315 SHOREHAM, *Poems*, p. 158.

per is an *eddre* þet is y-hote ine latin aspis.

1340 MICHEL (tr.), *Ayenbite of Inwyrt* (E.E.T.S.), p. 257.

For *eddres*, spirites, monstres, thyng of drede.

c 1420 *Palladius on Husbandrie* (E.E.T.S.), i. 935.

An manner of *an edder* is in thir place.

c 1430 [ms. 1592] *Chester Plays*, i. 26.

Ralus, an^{ee} a fleyng *addur*.

c 1450 *Lat.-Eng. Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 606, l. 43).

For that he begyled was

Through the *edder* and his wyfe.

c 1450 *Towneley Myst.* p. 72.

An addere crept forth of a bushe.

a 1600 *King Arthur's Death* (Child, *Ballads*, i. 43).

And so *an adder* ever after, in literary use, tho in speech it is stil
a nadder.

3. **Nadder-stone.** ME. *a nederstone, a nedyrstonne*, is now *an adderstone*.

(a) *Hec pumes*, A^{ee} *a nedyrstonne*.

c 1475 *Pictorial Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 768, l. 35).

(b) And the potent *adder-stone*.

1759 MASON, *Caractacus*. (C.D.)

Hetherd-stone.—That is, *an adderstone*; an ancient spindle-whorl.

1889 PEACOCK, *Manley and Corringham Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 269.

4. **Napron**, obsolete or dialectal *napern, nappern*; ME. *naperon, naprun*, from OF. *naperon*. The word goes with *napery, napet, napkin*, the simplex being the obsolete *nape*, from OF. *nape, nappe*, a cloth, napkin. *A napron, a napern*, remains in provincial speech, but in general use has become *an apron*, dial. *an apern, appern, appurn, apperon, yappern, yeppurn, heppern*.

(a) *Napet*, or *napekyñ*. *Napella*, manupiarium (mapella, P.). . . . *Naprun* (or barmclothe, supra). Limas.

1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 351.

A Napron (*Napperone*, A.), limas, & cetera; vbi *A barme clathe*.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 249.

Tablier a femme, a womans *naperne*.

1530 PALSgrave, p. 179.

A napron of worsted.

1569 *Wills & Inventories* (Surtees Soc.), ii. p. 305. (Heritage, p. 249).

And put before his lap *a napron* white.

1596 SPENSER, *F. Q.* V. v. 20.

Nappern, an apron. 1825 BROCKETT; 1847 HALLIWELL; 1857 WRIGHT.

Nappern. An apron. An archaism. 1854 BAKER, *Northampt. Gloss.* i. 44.

Napron, Naprin, Naperon. An apron. These forms represent the common pron. in West and South of S.

1887 DONALDSON, *Suppl. to Jamieson*, p. 172.

(b) Item all nappery ware, as kercherys, *appurnys*, blankytts, coverlets, and sych other.

1542 *Richmondshire Wills* (Surtees Soc. vol. xxvi.), p. 27. (Heritage.)

Aperen strings.

1542 UDALL, tr. Erasmus, *Apophthegms*.

To thomas hynde y^t was my prentice *an apron*.

1570 *Wills & Inventories*, iii. 327. (Heritage, p. li.)

Otherwise it may be sayd to me that Adam and Eues *apernes* were the gayest garmentes, because they were the first.

1589 [PUTTENHAM], *Arte of Eng. Poesie* (ed. Arber), p. 39.

Apern. An apron. 1890 ROBERTSON, *Gloss. Glouc. Dial.* (E.D.S.), p. 4.

5. **Nasturtium.** In rustic use *a nasturtium*, following the luxuriant habit of the plant, has spred into *an asturtium*, and *asturtium*, seeming to begin with the indefinit article, appears as *a sturtium*.

I am told that *a sturshon* is common in Chester County, Pennsylvania; *a storshon* is found in provincial English use.

(b) *Storshon*, the garden nasturtium.

1858 SPURDENS, *Suppl. to Vocab. East Anglia* (repr. E.D.S.), p. 80.

6. **Nauger**, formerly speld also *nawger*, dial. *noger*, *noager*, ME. *nauger*, *nagere*, contracted from earlier *navegor*, AS. *navegār* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 106, l. 16; 333, l. 36), earlier *nafugār*, *nafogār*, *nabogār*, *nabogaar*, literally 'nave-spear,' from *nafu*, nave, hub (see NAVE, No. 7), + *gār*, spear (piercer). The tool was so cald because of its use in boring the hole in the nave or hub, to receiv the axle. It was also cald a *wimble* (ME. *wymble*), and a *piercer* (ME. *persour*). A *nauger* early became an *auger*, tho the form *nauger* stil remains in provincial use.

(a) *Navegor*.

1301 *Inventory*. (H. p. 572.)

Navegor.

a 1400 (?) *Nominale MS.* (H. p. 572.)

Terere, wymble (*nauger*).

c 1400 (?) *Gloss. to Walter de Bibbesworth* (Wright, *Vocab.*¹ p. 170, l. 17).

With this axe that I beare,
This perscer and this *nagere*,
A hamer all in feare,
I have wonnan my meate . . .
. . . As a symple carpentere.

c 1430 [ms. 1592] *Chester Plays*, i. 107.

One axe, a bill, iij *nagares*, ij hatchettes, an ades.

a 1600 Quoted in *Shaksperiana Genealogica* (1869), p. 472. (Heritage.)

They bore the trunk with a *nauger*, and then issueth out sweet potable liquor.

1650 HOWELL, *Familiar Letters*, ii. 54. (N.)

Noger, or Jumper. See *Jumper* or *Borer*.

1802 JOHN MAWE, *Mineralogy of Derbyshire*, *Gloss.* (E.D.S. 1874).

Nodgur, an auger.

1882 NODAL and MILNER, *Lanc. Gloss.* p. 201.

We stil bore with a *nauger*, and call it a *nauger*, but we always write it an *auger*.

(b) *Terebrum*, an^{ce} an *augur* or a *Persour*.

c 1450 *Lat.-Eng. Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 616, l. 7).

Agore.

c 1500 *Letters*, ed. Ellis, Ser. iii. vol. i. p. 148. (Oliphant.)

Tariere : f. *An Augar*. Tariere à boiste. A Wimble. . . Teriere : f.

An Augur.

1611 COTGRAVE.

Herein is to be found, I think, the explanation of certain forms hitherto obscure or unnoticed. A *nauger's-bore* is probably the original of (a) *nangers bore*, and this of (an) *angus-bore*, in the quotations below. The *n* for *u* is apparently an original misreading for *u*.

(a)

Within and without,
This house round about . . .
Euerie *nangers bore* [*naugers bore* ?]
An Angell before.

a 1550 (?) *A Spell*, quoted from *Suffolk Garland* (1818), in Northall, *Eng. Folk-Rhymes*, p. 148.

- (b) *An augurs bore.* 1523 FITZHERBERT, *Husbandry*, § 3, 12. (N.E.D.)
 Into an *Augors boare.* 1607 SHAKESPEARE, *Cor.* iv. 6. F¹ p. 24.)
Angus-bore. A circular hole in a panel. V. *Auwis-bore.* 1866 JAMIESON.

7. **Naught**, also *nought*, a cipher or zero in arithmetic. *A naught*, misdivided, has produced *an aught* or *ought*, a form used even by many persons of education, partly, I think, because *naught* in other senses is passing out of spoken English.

- (a) Zéro, a figure of *nought* [1611 *naught*, 1659 *nought*] in Arithmetike.
 1598 FLORIO.

Zéro, sound dséro, the figure *nought* in Arithmetick.

- 1659 TORRIANO, *Brief Introd. to the Ital. Tongue.*
Nought, or *Non*, a cypher. 1876 ROBINSON, *Whitby Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 133.

Aught, speld also *ought*, is in common use in England and the United States. It is used in character by Dickens and Lowell. In the first instance Mr. Squeers, that eminent instructor in "bottinney" and "single-stick (if required)" is the speaker :

- (b) "At Midsummer," muttered Mr. Squeers, resuming his complaint, "I took down ten boys; ten twentys—two hundred pound. I go back at eight o'clock to-morrow morning, and have got only three—three *oughts an ought*, three twos six—sixty pound. What's come of all the boys? What's parents got into their heads?"

1839 DICKENS, *Nicholas Nickleby*.

"Three score and ten," said Chuffey, "*ought* and carry seven. Some men are so strong that they live to four score—four times *ought's an ought*, four times two's an eight—eighty.

1843 DICKENS, *Martin Chuzzlewit*, xlx.

Wy, into Bellers's we notched the votes down on three sticks;

'T wuz Birdofredum one, Cass *ought* and Taylor twenty-six.

1848 LOWELL, *Biglow Papers*, No. IX. l. 62.

Aught. The figure or sign 0. (Always.) The game "*Naughts* and crosses" is always called "*Aughts* and crosses."

1891 R. P. CHOPE, *Dial. of Hartland* (E.D.S.), p. 25.

8. **Nave**, ME. *nave*, *nafe* (late ME. also *nathe*, mod. dial. *nathe*, *nath*), AS. *nafu*. *A nave* appears in Scotch local use as *an eave*, and perhaps in a *naveboard* as *an ave* (see next).

- (a) Timpana, cartnave. c 1400 *Metrical Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 628, l. 11).
Nave of a qwele (qwyl, S. whele, P.). Modius, et modiolus, timpanum,
 cantus, meditullium. 1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 351.

Hoc meditolium, a nar [read a *nafe*].

c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 727, l. 28).

Hoc meditulium, An^{ee} a *nafe*.

c 1475 *Pictorial Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 811, l. 31).

- (b) *Eave*, s. corr. of the nave of a cart or carriage wheel. Roxb. 1866 JAMIESON.

9. **Nave-board**, one of the boards or floats around the nave or central part of a mil-wheel; from *nave* + *board*. This is probably the original of the hitherto unexplained *ave-boords* in Cotgrave; a

nave-board (-*boord*) being taken as an *ave-boord*. Compare other compounds of *nave*, namely, *nave-box* and *nave-hole*.

- (b) Aubes: f. The short boordes which are set into th'outside of a water-mills wheele; we call them, ladles, or *ave-boords* [1650 and 1673 *ave-boords*]. 1611 COTGRAVE. [Whence in Halliwell and Wright.]

I suppose the form *aveboords* in ed. 1611 is to be red, as in ed. 1650 and 1673 it is printed, *aveboords*. But if the *u* in *aveboords* is a vowel, then it is to be red as if **aweboords*, which brings it into direct relation with the Scotch *aw*, *awe*, applied to such projections:

The water falls upon the *awes*, or feathers of the tirl, at an inclination of between 40 and 45 degrees.

1791-99 UNST, *Shetland*, in Sinclair, *Statist. Account of Scotland*, v. 191. (1808 Jamieson.)

Aws, *awes* of a mill-wheel, s. pl. The buckets or projections on the rim which receive the shock of the water as it falls. S.

1808 (and 1866) JAMIESON.

Aws of a windmill. The sails or shafts on which the wind acts. Aberd. 1866 JAMIESON.

It seems probable that *awes*, *aws*, is short for **awe-boards*, *awe-* or *ave-* standing for original *ave-* from *a nave*, as *au-* in *auger* for *nauger*, *navuger* stands for the same original (see NAUGER above). Otherwise we should hav to explain *aveboords* in Cotgrave as originally **aube-boords*, from **aube* (from F. *aubes* as defined) + *boord*, now *board*.

10. **Navy**, ME. *navy*, *navie*, from OF. *navie*. We find ME. *a navy* lookt upon as *ane avy*.

- (a) *A Navy* of schyppis, classis, navigium. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 249.
The kynge sent *a navy* of shyppys to the see.

1502 *Arnold's Chron.* (1811), p. xlviij.

- (b) *Ane avy* of shippes tha spyed thame before.
a 1500 (?) *MS. Lansd.* 208, f. 8. (H. p. 120.)

11. **Neap**, a turnip; spelt also *neep*, Scotch *neip* (Jam.), and with shortened vowel *nep*; ME. *nepe*, also *nape*, AS. *nāp*, from L. *nāpus*, whence also ultimately Eng. *navew*, and the second element of *turnip*, formerly *turnep*, *turnepe* (Turner, 1548), dial. *tonnup*, *tonup*, *turmet*, *turmit*, *turmot*, *turmut*, *tormit*, *tarmit*. *Turnip* is recorded in 1548 by Turner as an unfamiliar name: "I haue heard sume cal it in englishe a *turnepe*" (*Names of Herbes*, repr. E.D.S., p. 55). It was probably originally *terræ napus*, 'neap of the ground,' or 'navew of the field.' Compare Cotgrave's entry "*Naveau*, the Navew gentle, French Navew, long Rape (a saourie root) . . . *Naveau blanc de jardin*, th' ordinarie Rape, or Turnep" (1611). The same first element *tur-*, representing L. *terræ*, occurs in a word

hitherto unsolv'd. I mean *turmeric*, formerly *turmerick*, sometimes *turn-merick* (Markham, 1676, in Nares), now meaning the rhizome of *Cucuma longa* or the plant itself, but formerly applied to *Potentilla Tormentilla*, "in englishe Tormentil or *Tormerik*" (Turner, as above, p. 87). Tormentile and turmeric hav enough in common, in the characteristic root or rootstock, in its use in medicin, and as a dye, to make the name easily pass from one to the other. The original English form of the name I suppose to hav been **termerite*, **terre-merite*, from F. *terre-merite*, now *terre-mérite*, or as N.L., *terra merita* (1671), corruptly *talmental* (1669 — Littré), *turmeric*. This must be from M.L. *terræ meritum* (an. 1251, 1319, 1336), *terremeritum* (an. 1263, 1311), *terameritum* (an. 1206), plural *terræ meritum*, *terre-merita*, given by Du Cange as 'fruits of the earth,' 'produce of the ground.' The application of the term to a plant conspicuous for its root would be easy.

A *neap* taken as an **cap* is probably the source of the aspirated *heap*, a turnip. Perhaps Halliwell's "*anape*, apparently the name of an herb . . . mentioned in an old receipt in a MS. of the 15th century" (H. p. 58), is a *nape*, a turnip; or is it, like *Jackanapes*, a plant of Italian growth — a *Napes*, of Naples? See A. No. 26.

A wonder thing a man may often see
two yere if *neep* in some lande sowen be,
It wol be rape, and rape in sum land sowe
Wol ther ayenne uppe into *neepes* growe.

c 1420 *Palladius on Husbondrie* (E.E.T.S.), viii. 25. (See also viii. 20-23.)

Hec rapa, a *neppe*.

c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 711, l. 4).

Tame *nepis* and parcely.

1502 *Arnold's Chronicle* (1811), p. 111.

Nepe, Heref., a navew or turnip.

1692 COLES, *Eng. Dict.*

(b) *Heaps*, turnips.

1881 DICKINSON, *Second Suppl. to Cumberland Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 109.

12. **Near**², a kidney, speld also *neer*, Sc. *neir*, *neire*, Eng. dial. also *nire*, *nyre* (spelt by Moor *nia*, *nyah*); ME. *nere*, *neere*; from an unrecorded AS. form, or from the cognate Scandinavian form, Icel. *nýra*, Sw. *njure*, Dan. *nyre*, D. *nier*, G. *niere*, Gr. *νεφρός*, etc. The hitherto unnoticed form *nire* is probably from the Scandinavian, and *near* from the AS. The word has disappeared from current use, being displaced by the word *kidney*, which is in fact a compound of *near*²; *kidney* (ME. *kidney*, *kydney*, *kedney*, *kidenei*), being an alterd form of ME. *kidnere*, *kydnere*, *kydneere*, *kidenere*, *kideneire*, *kydenere*, from **kid*, supposed to represent *quith*, Eng. dial. *kite*, belly (AS. *cwið*, Icel. *kviðr*, etc.) + *nere*, kidney. But *near* is in provincial use in various forms: (a) *near*, *nire* (*nia*, *nyah*); also, a *near* being taken

as *an ear*, (*b*) *ear*, *eer*, *eir* (speld by Moor *ayah*, *aiyah*); also, (*c*) *inear*, *innear*, and *inniards*, forms apparently resting, in popular etymology, on *in*, or *innard* for *inward*; also, (*d*) in the plural, by a duplication of the plural suffix, *nurses* (for **nerses*, **near-s-es*), a new plural of *nears* taken as a collectiv noun designating a pair, and hence open to a new plural. Compare *bodices*, plural of *bodice*, original *bodies*, plural of *body*.

- (a) For in-lowed es my hert,
And mi *neres* [*reenys*, Wiclif] are torned for un-queret.
c 1315 *Early Eng. Psalter*, Ps. lxxii. 21. (Heritage.)
- Ren, *a nere*. c 1450 (?) *Nominal MS.* (H.)
Neare of a beest, roignon. 1530 *PALSGRAVE*, p. 247.
Ren, the *neire*. 1595 *DUNCAN*, *Appendix Etymologie* (E.D.S. 1874).
Near or *neah* . . . *Niyah* or *Near*. [See below.]
1823 *MOOR*, *Suffolk Words*.
Near, the fat of the kidneys. . . . In Suffolk it is pronounced *nyre*.
1830 *FORBY*, *Vocab. East Angl.* p. 229.
Near, the kidney. 1847 *HALLIWELL*.
Near, the kidney. 1888 *ADDY*, *Sheffield Gloss.* p. 150.
- (b) *Near* or *Neah*. The same, I believe, as *Aiyah*, *Ear*, and *Niyah*, which see.
1823 *MOOR*, *Suffolk Words*, p. 245.
Niyah or *Near*. Rhyming to *fire* and *ear*, the fat surrounding the kidney of a roast loin of veal, or mutton. Also the kidney itself. There are various ways of pronouncing these words, *Ayah*, *Ear*, and *Nia*.
1823 *MOOR*, *Suffolk Words*, p. 249.
Ear. The kidney, or its neighbouring fat; particularly of roast veal. It is also called *Near*, or *Neah* — *Aiyah*, and *Niyah*.
1823 *MOOR*, *Suffolk Words*, p. 117.
Aiyah. The fat about the kidney of veal or mutton. It is also called *Niyah*, and sometimes *Ear* and *Near*. 1823 *MOOR*, *Suffolk Words*, p. 6.
Ear. An animal's kidney. *East*. 1847 *HALLIWELL*. Also 1857 *WRIGHT*.
Ear fat, *Near fat*, the fat surrounding the kidneys.
1859 *DICKINSON*, *Cumb. Gloss.* p. 34.
- (c) *Inear*, or *Near*. The kidney. *North*. 1790 *GROSE*, *Prov. Gloss.*
Inear. The kidney. *North*. 1847 *HALLIWELL*.
Inear, the kidneys: perhaps from their supposed resemblance to the shape of the ear. 1855 [*ROBINSON*], *Whitby Gloss.* p. 90.
Innear, a kidney. 1876 *ROBINSON*, *Mid-Yorksh. Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 65.
- (d) *Nurses*, the kidneys. *Lonsdale Gloss.* (Peacock.) (P. p. 639.)

13. **Neeld**, ME. *neld*, *nelde*, a transposed form of *needle*, ME. *nedle*, *nedyl*, AS. *nǣdl*. Compare dial. *wordle*, ME. *wordle*, a transposed form of *world*. I find ME. *a neld* as *an eld*.

- (a) Alle þeos þinges . . . ne beoþ nout wurð *a nelde*.
c 1230 *Ancren Riwe*, p. 400.
Soche willers witte is not worth *a nelde*. c 1400 *Plowman's Tale*, l. 728.
Neeld, a needle. 1881 *EVANS*, *Leic. Words* (E.D.S.), p. 199.
- (b) When alle mens corne was fayre in feld
Then was myne not worth *an eld*
[corrected to *a neld* in the "Addenda et Corrigenda," p. xix.]
c 1450 *Townley Myst.* p. 11.

14. **Nest**, ME. *nest*, AS. *nest*. In modern provincial use *a nest* is sometimes taken as *an est*. The very same word exists also as *eye*³

(see below, No. 17) ; for *nīdus*, the Latin original of *eye*³, is cognate with *nest*.

- (a) *A Neste*, *nīdus*, *nīdulus*, diminutivum. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 253.
 (b) *Est*, s. A corruption of *Nest*. Roxb. Hence, a *bird-est*, a bird's nest.
 Hogg. 1866 JAMIESON.

By leke or tarne, scho douchtna reste,
 Nor bygge on the klofte hirre dowye *este*.

1820 HOGG, *Winter Evening Tales*, ii. 71. (1880 Jam.)

Est. Nest.

1859 DICKINSON, *Cumberland Gloss.* p. 35.

15. **Nettle**, ME. *nettle*, *nettylle*, *netle*; AS. *nete*le. A *nettle* loses its hed, but not its sting, as *an ettle*.

- (a) *A nettylle*, *vrtica*. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 253.

Nettle out, dock in,
 Dock remove the *nettle* sting.

1879 HENDERSON, *Folklore of the Northern Counties*, p. 26.

- (b)

Out *ettle*, in Dock,
 Dock zhall ha' a new smock,
Ettele zhant ha' narrun.

1842 AKERMAN, *Wiltshire Gloss.* p. 16. (Northall.)

Ettele. A nettle. West.

1847 HALLIWELL.

Etteles. Nettles.

1868 HUNTLEY, *Gloss. of Cotswold Dialect*, p. 38.

16. **Nias**, also *nyas*, *niess*, *nyesse*, *niaise*, from OF. *niais* ; compare Pr. *nizaic*, *niaic*, It. *nidiace*, also *nidaso*, *niaso*, a young hawk taken in its nest ; originally adjectives, variously formed from L. *nīdus*, = E. *nest*. See NIE following, No. 17. A *nias* (*nyas*, *niess*, *nyesse*, *niaise*) came to be regarded and used as *an ias* (spelt *yas*, *eyas*, *eyase*, *eyesse*). The term was used alone and also as a part of several phrase-names.

(1) A *nias*, a young hawk. Examples of a *nias* in the literal sense and not joined to *hawk*, or an other noun, are rare. Compare the quotation from Cotgrave :

Niais : m. A neastling ; a young bird taken out of a neast ; hence, a youngling, nounce, cunning, ninnie, fop, noddie, cockney, dotterell, pea-goose ; a simple, witlesse, and vñexperienced gull ; also, as *Niez* [see quotation below]. 1611 COTGRAVE.

Niess, (Hawk).

1668 WILKINS, *Real Char.*, Alph. Dict.

Hence, figuratively, a youngling, a foolish young fellow, a simpleton.

- (a) Laugh'd at, sweet bird ! Is that the scruple ? Come, come, Thou art a *niaise*. 1616 B. JONSON, *Devil is an ass* (1641), i. 3.

- (b) *Eyas*. c 1450 *Reliq. Antiq.* i. 294. (Oliphant, i. 281.)

Couata, a couie of partridges, a beuie of phesants, a broode of chickens, an ayrie of hawkes : or any birdes hatching or sitting, a nestfull, a layre, *an eyas*. 1598 FLORIO.

Couáta, a couie of Partridges, a beuie of Fesants, a brood of Chickins, an ayrie of Hawkes, a nest-full, a lairie, *an eyase*, or any birdes hatching and sitting. 1611 FLORIO.

[Torriano, 1659, alters wording and omits "a lairie, *an eyase*."]

The first year of her trade she is *an eyesse*, scratches and cries to draw on more affection. a 1613 SIR THOMAS OVERBURY, *Works*, p. 82.

But there is Sir an ayrie of Children, little *Yases*, that crie out on the top of question; and are most tyrannically clap't for 't.

1623 SHAKESPEARE, *Hamlet*, ii. 2. (F¹ p. 262.)

Eyas. A young hawk; a falconer's term, not yet lost, derived from Eye.

1868 HUNTLEY, *Cotswold Dialect*, p. 38.

Nathaniel Field (first one of the little *eyasses* who competed with regular actors, and then himself an actor and playwright).

1887 G. SAINTSBURY, *Eliz. Lit.* p. 426.

From the noun *eyas*, or from the compounds below, arises the attributiv use in "*eyas wings*":

Ere fitting time could wag his *eyas wings*.
About that mightie bound which doth embrace
The willing spheres.

1596 SPENSER, *Hymn of Heavenly Love*, l. 24.

The word also appears, probably it appeared first, as an adjective or as a noun in loose composition, in (2) *a nias falcon*, (3) *a nias hawk*, a transfer or translation of the French or Italian terms *faucon niard*, *faucon niais* (?), *nidiace*, or *nidaso falcone* (see the quotations from Cotgrave and Florio). We also find (4) *a nias musket*, and (5) *a nias dragon*. The first two appear also and usually, the third (No. 4) appears only, with the *n* attracted to the article: *an ias falcon*, *hawk*, *musket*, misspelt *an eyas falcon*, etc.

(2) *A nias falcon*, *an eyas falcon*.

(a) *Niard*, *faulcon niard*. *A Nias Faulcon*. 1611 [and 1673] COTGRAVE.

(b) *Nidiáce falcóne*, a *Hawke* taken yong out of his nest, *a Eyase-faulcon*.
1611 FLORIO [not in 1598; see quot. 1659 under *eyas hawk*].

(3) *A nias hawk*, *an eyas hawk*; also *a nias goshawk*.

(a) That no man, from the feast of Pasche nexte ensuinge, shoulde beare any hauke of the breede of Englande, called *an nyesse goshake*, tasselle, laner, laneret, or faucon, upon payne of forfeiture of such his hawkte to the kyng.

1495 *Stat.* 11 Hen. VII. (Strutt, *Manners and Customs*, 1775, vol. iii. p. 126).

Niez, as *niais* [see quot. above]; Also *a nias hawke* [1673 *hawk*]; also, an airie of hawkes.

1611 [and 1673] COTGRAVE.

A Nias Hawke. G. *Niáis*. I. *Nidaso*, for a *nias Hawke*, or for a Nounce, a simple young one come late out of the nest.

1617 MINSHEU.

Nias Hawk (Fr. *Niais*) a Nestling or young Hawk; or any Hawk taken out of the Nest, before she prey'd for her self.

1674 BLOUNT, *Glossographia*, p. 433.

A nias Hawk. *Accipiter apotrophus*, rudis, recens a nido.

1693 *Lingæ Romanæ Dict.*

(b) Like *Eyas hauke* up mounts unto the skies,
His newly budded pineons to assay.

1590 SPENSER, *F. Q. I.* xi. 34.

Niaso, *an eyase hauke* [1611 *an eyase hawkte*]. 1598 FLORIO.

Nidaso, *an eyase hauke* taken out of the nest [1611 *an Eyase-hawke*].

1598 FLORIO.

Nidiace, *Nidaso*, *Falcone*, *an Eyase hawkte* taken out of her nest or airey.

1659 FLORIO, ed. Torriano [see quot. under *eyas falcon*].

(4) *A nias musket*; found only once, as (an) *eyas musket*.

(b) *M. Page*. Here comes little Robin.

Mist. Ford. How now my *Eyas-Musket*, what newes with you?

1623 SHAKESPEARE, *M. W. W.* iii. 3. (F¹ p. 50.)

(5) The sense of merely 'young,' 'a young one,' not confined to birds ("nyas, a cub," Wright), appears in a *nias dragon*.

(a) Then like a *nyas dragon* on them fly,
And in a trice devour them greedily.

1636 *Fasciculus Florum*. (Wr. p. 707.)

17. Nie, nye, ni, a nest, hence a brood; ME. **nie*, **ny*, from OF. *ni* (AF. *nye*, Kelham, 1779, p. 166); E. also *nide*, from F. *nid*; = Sp. It. *nido*, from L. *nidus* (cf. It. *nidio*, from L. *nidulus*, and Pg. *ninho*, from *nidinho* (Diez), or a deviant form also from *nīdulus*), a nest, = E. *nest* (see NEST above). It is especially applied to a nest or brood of pheasants:

Primez : où cervez sont assemblé

Un herde donque est appele,

Des grues ensy un herde,

Et des griuez sans herde,

Nye des fesautez, coueye des perdriz,

Dame des alowez, eipe des berbyz,

Soundre des porks et estaruyz,

Deueye [read *Beueye* ?] des héronez et pipe des oseaux.

Quoted by Leo, *Rectitudines*, p. 40, n. 71, from Reiffenberg, *Einleitung zur Chronique rimée de Philippe Mouskes*, I. p. xc. sq.

Examples of *nie* in ME. or later are rare; a *nie* came to be taken as *an ie*, and *ie* was generally misspelled *eye*.

(a) *Nye* (f. *Nid*), a nest. 1692 COLES, *Eng. Dict.*

A catalogue of the most usual words, whose sound is the same, but their sense and orthography very different. *Altar*, for sacrifice. *Alter*, change . . . *Nigh*, near. *Nid* [read "*Nie*" ? or "*Nye*, f. *nid*" ?], a nest. *Nye*, a mans name. 1692 COLES, *Eng. Dict.*, *Pref.*

Nide, Broedtsel. *A nide* of pheasants, Een broedtsel faisanten.

1766 SEWEL, *Eng. Dutch Dict.*

Nide, s. (A. N.) A brood of pheasants. 1857 WRIGHT, p. 699.

Ni. A brood of pheasants. 1875 PARISH, *Dict. Sussex Dial.* p. 79.

Ni. — A brood of pheasants. See also EYE.

1888 LOWSLEY, *Berkshire Words* (E.D.S.), p. 117.

Eye or *Ni*. — A brood of pheasants. 1888 *Id.* p. 78.

(b) They say a Bevie of Larkes, even as a covey of Partridge, or *an eye* of Pheasaunts. 1579 SPENSER, *Shep. Cal.*, April, Glosse.

Or, if you chance where *an eye* of tame pheasants

Or partridges are kept, see they be mine.

1647 FLETCHER, *Beggar's Bush*, ii. 1. (C.D.)

Eye. A brood of pheasants. *Var. dial.*

1847 HALLIWELL. (Also 1857 Wright.)

Eye, a brood of pheasants: Ey, an egg, German.

1868 HUNTLEY, *Gloss. of Cotswold Dial.* p. 38.

Eye. A brood of pheasants.

1889 PEACOCK, *Manley and Corringham Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 193.

The word was not confined to a brood of pheasants, as the Fletcher quotation shows. The *Century Dictionary* speaks of "an eye or shoal of fish."

18. Nisi prius. This detach scrap of a Latin conditional sentence, whose history in English illustrates the great possibilities of law and language when allied to perplex the populace, took the first downward step when it gave way to rime — **Nise-prise, nize-prizy, niz-priz.*

- (a) *Nize-Prizy.* Nisi Prius. Various. 1790 GROSE, *Prov. Gloss. Suppl.*
Nize prizy. 1839 HOLLOWAY, *Gen. Dict. of Provincialisms.*
Niz-priz, a writ of nisi-prius. 1864 HOTTEN, *Slang Dict.*

A **nise-prise, a nize-prizy*, became an *ise-prise, an izy-prizy*, or, with a touch of aspiration, *hizy-prizy*.

- (b) In the yeere 1509 the first of Henry the 8, Darby, Smith and Simson, ring-leaders of false inquests in London rode about the Citie with their faces to the horse tailes, and papers on their heads, and were set on the Pillorie in Cornehill, and after brought againe to Newgate, where they dyed for very shame, said Robert Fabian. A ring-leader of inquests, as I take it, is he, that making a gainfull occupation thereof, will appeare on *Iseprises* ere he be warned, or procure himself to be warned to come on by a tallis.

1618 STOW, *Survey of London*, ed. A[nthony] M[unday], p. 260.
Hizy prizy. A corruption of *Nisi Prius*, the name of a well known law assize. 1825 JENNINGS, *Somerset Gloss.* p. xvi. (Also 1828 [CARR], *Craven Gloss.* i. 228.)

Hizey Prizey, the court of Nisi Prius.

1825 BROCKETT, *North Country Words*, p. 97.

It underwent another transformation :

Izey-tizey. Uncertainty. *Devon.* 1847 HALLIWELL. (Also 1857 Wright.)

This is, of course, an allusion to the glorious uncertainty of the law. To the rural mind the law is "all a muddle." The writ of *premunire*, itself an etymological muddle (L. *praemunire*, fortify, muddled with *praemonēre*, forewarn), has led to a similar perplexity. We find it early used in the sense of "a serious or awkward position ; a predicament" (C.D.) :

If the law finds you with two wives at once,
 There's a shrewd *premunire*.

1656 MIDDLETON, MASSINGER, & ROWLEY, *Old Law*, v.

There is nothing left to prevent the rest ; *primary*, *primminerry*.

I, seeing what a *primary* I had by my ludness brought myself in, I saw that it could not be avoided.

1680 *Letter of Robert Young*, in Harl. Misc. VI. 334. (D.)

Primminerry. Perplexity — confusion — distress — derived, no doubt, somehow from *premunire*. 1823 MOOR, *Suffolk Words*, p. 293.

So the writ of *certiorari*, a piece of knock-down Latin, has past into *sasarara*, *sassarara*, *sasserary*, *siserarara*, *sisserara*, *siserari*, *siserary* (see C.D. s.v. *siserary*), an overwhelming assault.

Siserara. A hard cruel blow. "A gon em sich a siserara 'a the hidd."
I have fancied that this may be traced to the cruel act of the scriptural
Jael on the unhappy Sisera, as related in Judges, iv. 21.

1823 MOOR, *Suffolk Words*, p. 351.

19. **Noggerhead**, a dialectal variant of *loggerhead* (perhaps simulating *nog*, a wooden pin). A *noggerhead*, with a slight variation, becomes an *aggerhead*; and a *noggerheaded* fellow, originally a *loggerheaded* fellow, becomes an *aggerheaded* fellow.

(a) *Noggerhead*. A blockhead [fool, Wr.]. Dorset.

1847 HALLIWELL; 1857 WRIGHT.

You *logger-headed* and unpolisht groomes.

1623 SHAKESPEARE, *T. S.* iv. i. 128 (F¹ p. 221).

(b) *Aggerheads*, *loggerheads*.

1876 ROBINSON, *Mid-Yorkshire Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 1.

Aggerheads, *loggerheads*. "He's an *aggerheaded* fellow," means he is a
dull stupid fellow. 1888 ADDY, *Sheffield Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 2.

20. **Noonmeat**, the normal modern form of the ME. *nonmete*, *nunmete*, AS. *nōnmete*, meat or food taken at noon, a midday lunch, generally taken, with true British freedom, early in the morning, or late in the afternoon. The ME. *nonmete*, *nunmete*, assimilated, exists provincially as *nummet*, with variants *nimmet*, *neemit*, *nammet*, *nammut*, and a *nammet* is more evenly divided as an *ammet*. True to picnic experiences, we also find a *nammet*, a country lunch, jumbled together, as *anamet* (H. p. 58), *enamet* (H. p. 333). Compare *inear* for *near*² (No. 12 (c)).

(a) *Nunmete*. Merenda, antecenium.

1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 360.

Merenda, a none meete.

c 1470 *Medulla Gram.* (Way, *Pr. P.* p. 360, note 3).

A *Nvne mete*, antecena, antecenium, merenda. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 257.

Merenda, breakefast, or *noone meate*.

1548 THOMAS, *Ital. Gram.* (Way, *Pr. P.* p. 360, note 3).

Merendar, to take the *noonemeate*, meridiari. Merienda, a *noonemeate*,
merenda, prandium. 1591 PERCIVAL, *Span. Dict.* (Heritage.)

Nummet, nunch, luncheon.

1814 *Somerset Vocab.* in *Monthly Mag.*, Sept., p. 126

(*Spec. Eng. Dial.*, E.D.S., p. 73).

Nummet, s. A short meal between breakfast and dinner; nunchion.

1825 JENNINGS, *Somerset Gloss.* p. 57.

Nummet. 1849 SOUTHEY, *Common Place Book*, i. 477. (Davies.)

Nammet. A luncheon. *South.* 1847 HALLIWELL. (Also 1857 Wright.)

Nammut, a luncheon eaten in the field about nine o'clock in the morning,
excepting during harvest, and then at four in the afternoon.

1881 SMITH, *Isle of Wight Words* (E.D.S.), p. 22.

Nammet. Lunch.

1890 CHOPE, *Dial. of Hartland* (E.D.S.), p. 60.

Hence in composition, a *nammet-bag*:

Jan. What's got there you?

Will: A blastnashun straddlebob craalun about in the *nammut bag*.

1847 *Spec. of Isle of Wight Dial.* (H. p. xxi.).

Picknickers being told that a *nammut bag* answers to a lunch-basket, wil be able to giv a shrewd guess as to what a blastnashun straddlebob is; others may need to be informd that a blastnashun straddlebob is a dumbledore, that is to say, a polyonymous lamellicorn coleopter, cald also a dorbeetle, a dorbug, a maybeetle, a maybug, a cockchafer, a *Melolontha vulgaris*. The dumbledore proper is Emerson's "burly dozing humblebee," in American prose always a bumblebee.

When tha *dumbledores* hummin, craup out o' tha cob-wäll,

An, shakin ther whings, thå vloed vooäth an awä.

1825 JENNINGS, *Good Bwyte to thee, Cot* (Somerset poem) in *Dialects of West of England*, p. 91.

In the Isle of Wight dialog, from which I hav quoted above, it appears that *straddlebob* is a term of extreme antiquity. Jan douted about straddlebob:

Straddlebob! Where ded'st le yarn to caal'n by that neyam?

The question was referd to the master; and he said—

Why a zed one neyam ez jest so vittun vorn as tother, and he louz a ben caald *Straddlebob* ever zunce the island was vust meyard.

1847 HALLIWELL, l.c.

Which is a reasonable ancienty.

(b) *Ammat*. A luncheon before dinner.

1790 GROSE *Prov. Gloss.*

Ammat. A luncheon. West. 1847 HALLIWELL. (Also 1857 Wright.)

21. **Nouch**, ME. *nouche*, *nowche*, a brooch, a pendant, from OF. *nouche*, *nosche*, *nusche* (ML. reflex *nouchium*), ML. *nusca*, *nuxa*. A *nouch* early became an *ouch*, Sc. *uche*, *uch*. It is now known, in its clipt form, only as an archaic word in the English Bible.

(a) *Nowche*. Monile, scutula.

1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 359.

A shete shalle be youre palle, siche lodys shalle be youre *nowche*.

c 1450 *Towneley Myst.* p. 325.

An *nowche* of gold with a gret poynted diamant set upon a rose enamellid white, and a *nowche* of gold in facion of a ragged staff.

a 1483 *Grant from Edward IV.*, in *Paston Letters*, ii. 33. (Herrtage, *C. A.*, p. 263.)

(b) An *ouch* [var. an *ouch*, a *nouche*] of gold.

c 1386 CHAUCER, *Wife of Bath's Preamble*, l. 743 (Six-Text, D. 743).

An *owche* of sylver walewede therinne.

a 1500 (?) *MS. Cott. Calig. A. ii. f. 113.* (H. p. 914.)

Nor *Ouche*, Brooch or Agglet, but of Venice making or Millen.

1581 STAFFORD, *Compendious or Brief Exam.* (N.S.S.), p. 51. Fermaglio, an *ouch*, or iewell, a pendant, namely a brooch. 1598 FLORIO.

And they wrought Onix stones inclosed in *ouches* of gold grauen, as signets are grauen, with the names of the children of Israel.

Brânche d'ôro, *ouches* of gold.

1611 BIBLE, *Exodus*, xxxix. 6.

1611 FLORIO [not in ed. 1598].

Bránca d'ôro . . . *an ouch* or brooch of gold. 1659 FLORIO, ed. Torriano.

Nought, see 7, NAUGHT.

22. Nouthorn, the horn of a nout, that is, of an ox or a cow; a Northern Eng. term, also *nowthorn*, *nolthorn*, ME. *nouthorne* (as shown below), from *nout* (*nowt*, *nolt*), cattle, also an ox or a cow (from Icel. *naut*, cattle, parallel with Southern Eng. *neat*, ME. *neet*, *net*, AS. *nēat*, cattle), + *horn*. *Nout* has been in Northern Eng. use for more than seven hundred years. I find it also in six compounds beside *nouthorn*; namely, *nout-beast*, *nout-byre*, *nout-foot*, *nout-geld*, *nout-herd*, *nout-tath*. See *Catholicon Anglicum*, 1483; Duncan, *Appendix Etymologiae*, 1595; Jamieson, *Scottish Dict.*, 1808 and 1880; Robinson, *Whitby Gloss.*, 1876; etc.

Nouthorn has heretofore receivd scant recognition, being in all but two recorded instances, and these obscure, turnd into *an outhorn*, and this being explaind as an original formation from *out* + *horn*.

The word appears undisguised in the following instances:

- (a) A lang kail-gully hang down by his side,
And a meikle *nowt-horn* to rout on had he.
a 1776 Humble Beggar (Herd, *Collection of Anc. and Mod. Scottish Songs* (1776), ii. 29. (1880 Jam. iii. 371.)).

Nolt-horn, *Nowt-horn*, s. The horn of an ox or cow, used for collecting cattle, &c. . . . Of a very cold day, it is proverbially said, "It's enough to pierce a *nouthorn*," S. 1880 JAMIESON, iii. 371.

In all the other instances a *nouthorn* is disguised as *an outhorn*, or as *outhorn*, *outhorne*, without the indefinit article. The cases require individual notice.

- (b) There was many *an outhorne* in Caerlel blowen [*var.* in Carlile was blowne, P.],
And the belles bacward did they ryng [*var.* bells backward did ringe, P.].
a 1550 Adam Bel, Clym of the Cloughe, and Wyllyam of Cloudesle, l. 345. (Child, *Ballads*, v. 144, from Ritson, *Pieces of Anc. Pop. Poetry*, p. 1; also in Percy, *Reliques*, i. 158; *Percy Folio MS.*, iii. 89, l. 345, with variations as above noted.)

Prof. Child, in his glossary to the *Ballads* (iv. 319, ed. 1880), explains *outhorne* in this passage as "a horn blown to summon people to assist in capturing a fugitive." Percy explains it as "an old term signifying the calling forth of subjects to arms by the sound of a horn"; and refers to Coles and Bailey. I append the entries in Coles and Bailey:

Out-hest, *Out-horn*, evocatio subditorum ad militiam per edictum regis or per sonum cornu. 1708 COLES, *Eng.-Lat. Dict.*

Out-hest, Out-horn, the Summoning of Subjects to Arms by the Sound of a Horn. 1733 BAILEY.

These entries are based on earlier statements in Spelman and Skinner:

Outhest, idem quod *Outhorn*, ab AS. Hæse, Mandatum, & *Out*, q. d. Evocatio ad Militiam per Mandatum seu Edictum Regis.

1671 SKINNER, *Etym. Angl.*

Outhorn, Spelman citat ex Fœdere Ælfredi & Guthruni RR. quod in impresso codice dicitur Edwardi & Guthruni. Videtur autem Convocatio Subditorum, seu Civium ad arma per sonum Cornu, ab *Out & Horn*.

1671 SKINNER, *Etym. Angl.*

But I do not find *outhorn*, or any AS. word like it, in the laws of Edward and Guthrum as printed (Lambard, *Ἀρχαιονομία*, ed. Whelock, 1644, p. 41-44; Thorpe, *Ancient Laws*, 1840, i. 166-177; Schmid, *Die Gesetze der Angelsachsen*, 1858, p. 118-126). Spelman's reference seems to be intended for *outlaw*, AS. *ūtlah*, which occurs in the laws mentiond. A murderer is to be 'outlaw' — "beo he þonne utlah, and his hente mid hearne [read hream] ælc þara þe riht wille" — "et capiat eum cum clamore," with hue and cry. (Whelock, p. 43; Thorpe, i. 170; Schmid, p. 122.) This brings in the notion of *outhest*, given by Skinner, Coles, and Bailey, as synonymous with *outhorn*, but a different word, representing ME. *outhes*, later *owtis*, *outas*, etc., outcry, hue and cry; in Anglo-Latin *uthesium* (*Laws of William the Conqueror*, I. iv. title: Thorpe, i. 469). See *outas*², in the *Century Dictionary*. The formation of this word is apparently from AS. *ūt*, ME. *out*, out, + AS. *hæs*, ME. *hes*, *hees*, E. *hest*, call, command. The latter element seems to have been later confused with *hue* (AL. *huesium*, *hutesium*), in *hue and cry*.

These erroneous statements of Spelman, Skinner, Coles, and Bailey no doubt rest on the medieval Scottish use of *outhorne* in legal documents:

Gif it happinnis the Schiref to persew fugitouris with the Kingis Horne as is foirsaid, and the countrie ryse not in his supporte, thay all or parte herand the Kingis Horne, or beand warnit be the Mairis, and followis not the *outhorne*, — ilk gentilman sall pay to the King vnforgeuin xl. s. and ilk yeman xx. s.

1426 *Acts Ja. I.* c. 109. Edit. 1566, c. 98. Edit. Murray. (1808 Jam.)

That all maner of men, that has land or gudis, be redy horsit and geirit, and efter the faculte of his landis and gudis, for the defence of the realme, at the commandement of the Kingis letters be bailis or *outhornis*.

1456 *Acts Ja. II.* c. 62. Edit. 1566, c. 98. Murray. (1808 Jam.)

Fra I be semblit on my feit,

The *outhorne* is cryde;

Thay rais me all with ane rout,

And chasis me the toun about,

And cryis all with ane schout,

'O traytor full tryde!'

a 1586 *Maitland Poems* (1786), p. 198. (1808 Jam.)

Jamieson (1808) defines the word in the second quotation as "1. The horn blown for summoning the lieges to attend the king in *feir of were*;" in the first quotation as "2. The horn blown by the king's mair or messenger, to summon the lieges to assist in pursuing a fugitive;" in the third, as "3. The 'horn of a sentinel or watchman to sound alarm,' Gl. Sibb.;" that is, he adopts the definition given in the glossary appended to Sibbald's *Chronicle of Scottish Poetry* (1802), with a qualification, "unless there be an allusion to the practice of proclaiming a man to be a rebel, and making him an outlaw, by putting him to the horn." (See Jamieson, s.v. *horn*; *Century Dictionary*, phrases *at the horn*, and *to put to the horn*, s.v. *horn*, n.)

I find two more quotations :

This is a great skorne and a false trane,
Now wolf-hede and *out-horne* on the be tane!
Vile fature!

c 1450 *Towneley Myst.* (Surtees Soc. 1836), p. 193.

Tutivillus. Of these cursid forsworne and alle that here leyndes,
Blaw, wolfes-hede and *oute-horne*, now namely my freyndes.

c 1450 *Id.* p. 321.

The editor defines *outhorne* in these passages as "an outlaw"; a definition repeated, without a reference to any passage, by Halliwell, and by Wright. But the "outhorne" was not an outlaw; and certainly the *outhorne* that was "blown in Carlisle" was not an outlaw. Of course an outlaw, when hard prest by his pursuers, might in one sense be "blown in Carlisle," or become "blown" before he had run very far from Carlisle; but this manner of speech was not in use at that time, even among the most desperate outlaws.

The "outlaw" in these cases was the *wolf's-head* (*wolfes-hede*, *wolf-hede*). I giv a clearer example :

Tho were his bondemen sory and nothing glad,
When Gamelyn her lord *wolfes-heed* was cryed and maad.

c 1400 *Gamelyn*, l. 700.

Wolf's-head, ME. *wolfes-hede*, *wolfes-heed*, *wolf-hede*, in quotations above, earlier **wolfesheved*, *wolfeshefod* (in Skinner as *wolferhefod*), *wluesheued*, AS. **wulfes hēafod*, was a figurativ term for the hed or person of an outlaw, who was to be pursued as if he wer a mere wolf or wild beast.

In the laws attributed to Edward the Confessor, if one breaks the peace of holy church, and does not submit to disciplin —

Ore suo utlagabit eum rex. Et si postea repertus fuerit, et teneri possit, vivus, regi reddatur, vel caput ipsius si se defenderit; *lupinum* enim caput geret a die utlagacionis sue, quod ab Anglis *wluesheued* nominatur. Et hec sententia communis est de omnibus utlagis.

a 1300 *Leges Regis Edwardi Confessoris*, vi. (Thorpe, *Anc. Laws*, i. 444.)

To "crye wolves-heed," to "blaw wolves-hede and outhorne," to "take wolf-hede and outhorne on" a person, mean practically the same thing, namely, to raise the hue and cry on a person, to pursue him, crying "wolf's-head!" in one breth, and blowing a horn in the next. It is a medieval version of 'stop thief' — "thief! police!" — an excitedly brief assertion, followed by an excitedly brief call for help.

We thus see that *outhorne* need not be understood as having any reference to *out*, either 'being out,' or 'calling out,' or 'crying out.' It means a horn of some kind, but does not tell why it is blown. It is the context which enables us to infer that it is a horn blown to raise an alarm.

On etymological grounds the apparent formation, *out* + *horn*, is untenable. The word, if so formed, could mean only 'a horn that is out,' that is, 'an outer horn,' as opposed to a possible inner horn. It would then be parallel with the Icel. *úthorn*, an outer corner (from *út*, out, + *horn*, a horn, point, angle, corner).

I conclude that *outhorne* in all the passages cited, represents the original *nouthorn*; a *nouthorn* being taken as an *outhorn*, and then popularly associated, in accordance with the apparent form, but in defiance of the real analogies of the language, with 'calling out.' Such is often the case with popular etymologies — they are easy to believe, but hard to explain.

I have not found any other instances of *nouthorn*. The words of more familiar sound are *cowhorn* = G. *kuhhorn* = Norw. *kuhorn* (Aasen, *Norsk Ordbog*, 1873, p. 395) = Dan. *kohorn* (Molbech, *Dansk Ordbog*, 1833, i. 591); and *oxhorn* = Dan. *oxehorn* (Molbech, ii. 161).

But when his steede saw the cows taile wagge,
And eke the blacke *cowe-horne*.

1596 *King Edward IV. and the Tanner of Tamworth*
(Child, *Ballads*, viii. 29).

Be ready, when I give a signal, to strike naker, and blow trumpets, if we have any; if not, some *cow-horns* — anything for a noise.

1825 SCOTT, *The Betrothed*, v.

That is why "many a nouthorn was blown in Carlisle" and elsewhere, — "anything for a noise." The people, hearing the sound of a horn, would of course rush out to see what was in the wind.

23. Number, ME. *nombre*, from OF. *nombre*, *nombre*, L. *numerus*. A *number* appears as an *umber* — a case of attraction six hundred years old.

Gnar, or *Knur*. . . 2. Another name for the game of hockey, which it obviously receives from the stick, with which the game is played, having a gnar or knot at the end of it. 1854 BAKER, *Northampton Gloss.* i. 279. *Knor* or *Gnar*, a small ball of lignum vitæ for playing at cricket with, or a similar game which is called "Spell and Knor," the spell being the trap or tilt on the ground, from which the ball is struck by the "tribbit stick," or long-handled bat. See *Tribbit Stick*.

1855 [ROBINSON], *Whitby Gloss.* p. 98.

Norr or *Narr*. See *Knor* or *Gnar*.

1855 *Id.* p. 120.

Nurspell. A boy's game in Lincolnshire, somewhat similar to trap-ball.

It is played with a kibble, a *nur*, and a spell. By striking the end of the spell with the kibble, the *nur* of course rises into the air, and the art of the game is to strike it with the kibble before it reaches the ground. He who drives it to the greatest distance wins the game.

1847 HALLIWELL.

Spell and Knor, a game so called. See *Knor*. It is known further South as *Dab and Shell*.

1855 *Yorkshire Gloss.* p. 164.

Drab-and-norr. A game very similar to trippit and coit. 1847 HALLIWELL.

Drab-and-norr, s. A game in the North, something like tip-cat.

1857 WRIGHT.

Nurr, the ball beaten to and fro in the game of bandy.

1882 NODAL and MILNER, *Lanc. Gloss.* p. 203.

Knur. (1) A hard wooden ball with which children play. (2) The head.

1889 PEACOCK, *Manley and Corringham Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 307.

Nur-spell and Dandy. The game of hockey. 1889 *Id.* p. 377.

What sports and games could be comprised in the Olympic programme at Chicago? . . . Scottish experts may be expected to make manifest to transatlantic eyes the national sports of curling, putting the stone and tossing the caber, to say nothing of the more occult diversion, popular in Lancashire and Yorkshire, of *knurr-and-spell*.

1892 *London Telegraph*, Oct.

(b) *Orr*, s. A ball of wood used in the game of doddart. 1857 WRIGHT.

26. Nurled, also speld *nerled*, reduced *nooled*, stunted, dwarfish; an adjectiv associated with *nurling*, a dwarf (see next), both from *nurl*, *knurl*, a knot, a stunted person, a dwarf (H.); a word of many paths into which I can not now enter. A *nurled* person is sometimes treated as an *urled* person.

(a) *Nerled*. Ill-treated, as by a step-mother. North. 1790 GROSE, *Prov. Gloss.* *Nerled*, ill-treated: often applied to the conduct of a step-mother.

1825 BROCKETT, *North Country Words*, p. 148.

Nooled, checked, curbed, broken-spirited. 1825 *Id.* p. 151.

(b) *Urled*. . . 'to be *urled*' is spoken of such as do not grow.

1691 RAY, *North Country Words* (E.D.S.), p. 71.

Urled. To be stunted in their growth. Said of such as do not grow.

1790 GROSE, *Prov. Gloss.* (Also 1828 *Craven Gloss.*)

Url't, ill-thriven; stunted in growth.

1878 DICKINSON, *Cumb. Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 108.

Urled (N. Lanc.), stunted. 1882 NODAL and MILNER, *Lanc. Gloss.* p. 275.

27. Nurling, a simplified spelling of *knurling*, dial. *knurlin*, *nurlin*, a stunted person, a dwarf; from *knurl*, *nurl*, a knot, a stunted person, a dwarf, as above, + *-ing*. A *nurling*, a *nurlin*, turns up as an *urling*, an *urlin*, sometimes an *orling*. Compare *urled*, above.

In Homer's craft Jock Milton thrives;
 Eschylus' pen Will Shakespeare drives;
 Wee Pope, the *knurlin*, till him rives
 Horatian fame.

a 1796 BURNS, *Poem on Pastoral Poetry*.

- (b) *An urling*, a little dwarfish person. In the South they call such *knurles*.
 1691 RAY, *North Country Words* (E.D.S.), p. 71. (Also
 in 1790 GROSE, and 1828 *Craven Gloss*.)

Orling. A stinted child, or any ill-thriving young stock. *North*.

1790 GROSE, *Prov. Gloss*.

Urling or *underling*, a dwarf, a sickly child.

1855 [ROBINSON], *Whitby Gloss*. p. 185.

The implication that *urling* is a contraction of *underling* is, of course, only another instance in which the arrow of conjecture has flown wide on the wind.

Urlin, a dwarf or dwarfish thing.

1859 DICKINSON, *Cumberland Gloss*. p. 127.

Words not heard from 1851 to 1891. . . . *Orling*, a stinted child.

1892 MORRIS, *Yorkshire Folk-Talk*, p. 76.

It may be noted here, with regard to *nur* for *knur*, *nar* for *knar*, *nurling* for *knurling*, that some other words with original *kn-* have come to be spelt with simple *n-*, either always or often; as *nab*, *nap* in some senses, *nag*, v., *nick*, *nicknack*, *nob*, *nurl*, etc. Of course it would be terrible to extend the principle, and spel *knife*, *knock*, *knuckle*, etc., in like manner, *nife*, *nock*, *nuckle*, etc.; for how in the world should we then discover their etymology, which, when the words ar speld with a *k*, is perfectly obvious to every schoolboy, and even to some learned men? Every one who has studied etymology by the method of rapid intuition knows that when you drop or change a single letter in a word, the whole etymology instantly vanishes, and can not be found again.

28. *Nuthatch*, also *nuthack*, a bird, *Sitta Europæa*: ME. *nuthake*, *nuttehake*, *nothak*, *notthache*, *notehach*, *nuthage*, *nothagge*, etc. *A nuthack* has become an **uthack*, reduced to *utic*, *yewtick*, aspirated *hutig*. *A nuthage* has become an *uthage*. The application of these names varies. Names of birds, especially of small birds which, because they ar small and quick in their motions, ar not so redily identified, easily shift from one bird to another.

- (a) *Nothak*, byrde. Picus. 1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 359.
 Hic ficedula, a *nuthage*. c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 702, l. 32).
 Nucifragus, an^o a *notehach*.

c 1450 *Lat.-Eng. Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 598, l. 7).

The *nuthake* with her notes newe.

c 1475 *The Squyr of Lowe Degre*, l. 57. (Ritson, *Metr. Rom.* iii. 47.)

Hic onux, A^o a *nothak*. c 1475 *Pictorial Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 762, l. 1.)

A Nutte hake, picus, corciscus.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 257.

- Picus, *a nuthawke*. 1500 *Ortus Vocab.* (Way, p. 359.)
Nothagge, a byrde, jaye. 1530 PALSGRAVE, p. 248.
 (b) *Hutic*. The whinchat. *Salop*. 1847 HALLIWELL.
Utic, s. The whinchat. *Leic*. 1857 WRIGHT.
Uthage. The chaffinch. The whinchat is so called in Shropshire.
 1847 HALLIWELL.
Uthage, s. (1) The chaffinch. (2) The whinchat. *Shropsh*. 1857 WRIGHT.
Utic, the whinchat . . . *Yewtick*, i.q. *Utic*.
 1881 EVANS, *Leic. Words* (E.D.S.), p. 283, 295.

Nyas. See 16, NIAS.

Nye. See 17, NIE.

Similar to the words above explained are two cases in which words from the Greek, with initial *an-*, are in popular use regarded as involving the article *an* or *a*, which is therefore separated from the rest of the word.

29. **Anatomy**, a skeleton; the human frame after it has suffered anatomy—and wiring. Hence ‘a living skeleton,’ a lean hunger-stricken wretch. *Anatomy* is popularly taken as *an atomy* (also *atomy*, *ottamy*, etc.), or as *a natomy* (also *notomy*, *nottomy*, *nottamy*, etc.).

(a) *Anatomy* (*anatomie*, *anatomye*) :

- Out of every corner of the woods and Glinnes they [the inhabitants of Munster] came creeping forth upon their hands, for theyr legges could not beare them; they looked like *anatomyes* of death, they spake like ghostes crying out of theyr graves.
 c 1596 SPENSER, *View of the Present State of Ireland*. (Globe ed. p. 654.)
 A meere *Anatomie*, a Mountebanke,
 A thred-bare Iugler, and a Fortune-teller.
 1623 SHAKESPEARE, *C. E.* v. 238 (F¹ p. 98).
 And rowze from sleepe that fell *Anatomy* [Death].
 1623 SHAKESPEARE, *King John*, iii. 4, 40 (F¹ p. 12).
Dol. Goodman death, goodman Bones.
Host. Thou *Anatomy*, thou.
Dol. Come you thinne Thing;
 Come you Rascall. 1623 SHAKESPEARE, *2 Hen. IV.* v. 4, 33 (F¹ p. 99).
 [The Globe ed. has *atomy*.]
 The female who sat behind this spectre exhibited also some symptoms of extenuation; but being a brave jolly dame naturally, famine had not been able to render her a spectacle so rueful as the *anatomy* behind which she rode.
 1825 SCOTT, *The Betrothed*, xxx.

The transition to *an atomy*, *a natomy*, is well shown in the following, where the real article *an* has been left out.

- The Egyptians had a custome . . . in the midst of their feasts to have brought before them *Anatomie* of a dead body dried.
 1631 SIR R. BARCKLEY, *Felicities of Man*, p. 30. (P.)

(b) *An atomy* (*atamy*, *atomy*, *ottamy*, etc.) :

- Thou *atomy*, thou.
 SHAKESPEARE, *2 Hen. IV.* v. 4, 33. [Globe and Leopold edd.; see above.]

I hear she's grown a mere *otomy*. 1738 SWIFT, *Polite Conversation*, i. (D.)
Ottamy, a skeleton.

1828 [CARR], *Craven Gloss*, ii. 20; 1854 BAKER, *Northampt. Gloss*, ii. 81.

(c) *A natomy* (*notomy*, *nottomy*, *notamie*, *nattamy*, *notomise*, *notomize*, etc.). The first example seems to show the literal sense 'cutting up,' 'dissection':

[Certain persons whose names ar left blank] were hanged at [Tyb]orne, and on off them the sur[geons took] for a *notyme* in-to ther halle.

1561 MACHYN, *Diary* (Camden Soc.), p. 273. (So a *nothème*, p. 252.)

Nottomy, s. Corrupted from *anatomy*; but it means, very often, that state of the living body implied by the terms, *mere skin and bone*.

1825 JENNINGS, *Somerset Gloss*, p. xviii.

Nottomy. A skeleton. Wasted to a *nottomy*, i.e. mere skin and bone.

Corrupted from *Anatomy*. 1854 BAKER, *Northampt. Gloss*, ii. 65.

A Notomize, a skeleton or atomy. "As thin as a *notomize*."

1855 [ROBINSON], *Whitby Gloss*, p. 120.

Natomy, *Notomy*, a very thin person.

1881 MRS. PARKER, *Oxfordshire Words*, Suppl. (E.D.S.), p. 91.

30. *Anemone*, also speld *anemony*, the windflower, the beuty of the woods in May, is often taken as *an emone* or *an emony* (which is also transformed into *an enemy*), and as *a nemony*, *nemmony*, *neminy*.

(a) *Anemony*. 1668 WILKINS, *Real Character*, p. 95.

Anemone. 1678 PHILLIPS.

(b) The common people call them *emones*. 1657 COLES, *Adam in Eden*. (P.)

Our gardeners call them *emonies*. R. TURNER, *Botany*, p. 18. (P.)

Down i' the wold *enemies*. TENNYSON, *Northern Farmer*, O.S., st. ix.

But this delicate little flower is not a very 'wild enemy.'

Neminies, the windflower. 1882 NODAL and MILNER, *Lanc. Gloss*, p. 199.

Nemony. 1889 PEACOCK, *Manley and Corringham Gloss*. (E.D.S.), p. 367.

31. Here might be mentiond the artificial blunder of one of Shakespeare's clowns, his profest "funny men"; (*an*) *egma* for *enigma*.

Ar. Some *enigma*, some riddle, come, thy Lenuoy begin.

Clo. No *egma*, no riddle, no lenuoy, no salue, in thee male sir.

1623 SHAKESPEARE, *Love's Labour's Lost*, iii. 1 (F¹ p. 128).

It should be observd that while the *n* of the article *an* is very persistent before a word beginning with a vowel, whether it stands in its own place or moves over next to its noun, it does sometimes actually drop out. Examples ar numerous in Middle English, and some modern dialects use *a* in all positions.

And also a *ermyte* swylke lyue he lede.

c 1325 *Eng. Metr. Hom.*, ed. Small, p. 71.

Our Lady tuk this chyld all warme,

And layd it in a *aungell* arm,

And bad hym ber this chylde right tyte

Opon his halfe to a *armyte*.

c 1325 *Id.* p. 168.

I have *a errande* to saye to thee. *c* 1430 (ms. 1592) *Chester Plays*, ii. 4.
A abatyse (692, l. 13), *a ancoryse* (681, l. 25), *a ankrys* (692, l. 20),
a e[m]prys (691, l. 31), *a endyter* (681, l. 36), *a ermyte* (681, l. 24),
a uscher (681, l. 11), etc. *c* 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*²).

My father's lord o' three castles,
 My mother she's lady ower three,
 And there is nane to heir them all,
 No never *a ane* but me.

The Courteous Knight (Child, *Ballads*, vii. 275).

It ought also to be noted in connection with the attraction or adhesion of the *n* of the article *an*, that in ME. the whole article, *an* or *a*, is often found adhering. For *an* adherent, see *another* under *other* (A. 143). The following examples show *a* adherent:

Allas þ̅ *atendre* maide me haþ þus ouercome!
 If hit were *aman* of mi strenȝbe iwis me nere noȝt,
 Ac ischend i^e am þ̅ *amaide* me haþ to grounde ibroȝt.

c 1300 *Seinte Margarete*, l. 186 (E.E.T.S.), p. 29.

Amanqueller.

c 1300 *Id.* l. 261.

Such *afol dede.*

c 1300 *Id.* l. 304.

C. The following word occurs with and without initial *n*, and probably belongs to one or the other of the preceding classes; but the etymology is obscure, and the class has not been determind.

1. **Nuggin** and **Uggin**, a lunch.

Nuggin, a slight repast, a luncheon. *S*[*hetland*].

1866 EDMONSTON, *Gloss. of Shetland and Orkney Words*, p. 78.

Uggin, a lunch, a light repast. *S*[*hetland*].

1866 *Id.* p. 135.

Ugg, to take a slight repast. *S*[*hetland*].

1866 *Id.* p. 135.

Edmonston derives *nuggin* from "Da. *knogen*, a little piece of meat, a morsel"; which I can not verify.

D. I notice here certain cases in which a transfer of *n* has been supposed, erroneously, to hav taken place.

1. **Nag**, a small horse.

N has intruded in a few words, as —

Newt = an ewt.

Nag = Dan. *æg*; O.-Sax. *ehu* (cf. Lat. *equa*).

1880 MORRIS, *Outlines of Eng. Accidence*, p. 72.

But no instance of the required Eng. original **ag* has been found. The word in ME. is *nagge* (*c* 1360 *Destruction of Troy*, E.E.T.S., l. 7727; 1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 350; etc.); MD. *negghe* (Junius,

Kilian), D. *negge*. Moreover, Dan. *ög* is not a nag, but a work-horse, and is cognate with Sw. *ök*, Icel. *eykr*, a beast of labor, applied in Icel. to either horses or oxen. These forms can have no connection with either Eng. *nag*, or OS. *ehu*, AS. *coh*, Lat. *equus*, *equa*.

2. Orange.

Orange. Etymologically we should say, instead of "an orange," a *norange* or *narenge*. See above, p. 264. 1882 PALMER, *Folk-Etym.* p. 585.

An original *n* is lost in *auger* for *nauger* . . . adder for *nadder*, *orange* for *norange*, *apron* for *napron*, *ouch* for *nouch*.

1882 SKEAT, *Etym. Dict.* p. 386.

But this statement is not true of *orange* as an English word. As Skeat shows (p. 405) the original *n* (Pers. *nāranj*, etc.) was lost outside of English. The earliest Eng. forms are *orenge*, *oronge* (1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 370, where see Way's note), from OF. *orange*, *orenge*. There is no Eng. **norange* on record. If found, it would be a **norange* for an *orange* (division A), not the original of an *orange* (division B).

E. The following cases are uncertain.

1. Nexile.

Here vndernethe me now a *nexile* I neuen,
Whilke *Ile* sall be erthe now, all be at ones
Erthe haly and helle, þis hegheste be heuen.

c 1430 *York Plays*, Creation, l. 25, p. 2.

Explained in the glossary as follows :

Nexile (an exile), s. aisle, from Lat. *axilla*, a detached part of the structure of the world; here seems to be confounded with *isle* . . .

Gloss. p. 546.

But no such form of the word now misspelled *aisle*, as *exile*, and no other form of it involving *x* or *s*, exists in ME., and the Latin *axilla* itself is found only as the supposed link between *axis* and *āla*, the true original of the E. *aisle*, which is merely a piece of ecclesiastical cacography. The original form of the above passage was perhaps this :

Here vndernethe me now a *newe ile* I neuen,
Whilke *Ile* sall be erthe now [etc.].

The phrase a *newe ile* as here used, involving a somewhat forced use of *ile*, would, if badly written, open the way for emendation, and the copyist might readily light upon a *nexile*, an *exile*, which would seem to express the remoteness and solitariness of the new-made world. The thought of the inhabited world as an exile was familiar :

Huanne he yede in-to þe *exil* of þise wordle.

1340 MICHEL (tr.), *Ayenbite of Inwyrt* (E.E.T.S.), p. 215.

2. Nugget.

Nugget. . . Formerly spelt *niggot* . . . *Niggot* is supposed to be a corruption of *ningot*, which stands for *ingot*.

1882 SKEAT, *Etym. Dict.* p. 396.

Other examples [of prefix *n*] occur in *nickname* for *ekename*, and *nugget*, formerly *niggot* = *ningot* for *ingot*.

1882 *Id.* p. 386. (Similarly in 1887 *Prin. Eng. Etym.* 1st ser. p. 216.)

Nugget, a lump of metal, is the modern form of *niggot* (North's Plutarch), which is probably a corruption of a *ningot*, standing for *an ingot*.

1882 PALMER, *Folk Etym.* p. 584.

But the form *niggot* is not well established, the supposed form **ningot* has not been found, and the change from **ningot* to *niggot* (*ng* > *gg*) has no parallel in English, except that of *angnail*, *agnail*, where other causes are concerned. And *ingot* has been in regular use from its first appearance.

I have found a few possible cases of Attraction of this class which remain obscure, and must therefore remain unmentioned. Some apparent cases of this kind really belong to other categories.

II. Cases involving the old dative form *then* of the article *the*.

A. Cases in which the final *n* of the Middle English *then*, earlier *than*, Anglo-Saxon *ðam*, *ðæm*, *ðon*, dative singular or plural of the definite article or demonstrative, has become attached to the following word, leaving the article in the usual form *the*; namely, in the phrases *at then* . . ., *to then* . . ., *for then*. . .

At then is assimilated to *at ten*, which is commonly written *atten*, and may be reduced to *atte*, then to *at*, and ultimately to *a*, or may be misdivided *atte n*, the *n* becoming the victim of a misplaced attachment. See the cases cited below. Compare the like assimilations in early ME. *ðat te*, *ðet te*, *ðatte*, for *ðat ðe*, *ðet ðe*; *ðet tu* for *ðet ðu*; *ðet tin* for *ðet ðin*; *art tu*, *artu*, later *artow*, for *art ðu*, etc. See, e.g., c 1200 *St. Marherete* (E.E.T.S.), p. 20, 21. It is to be noted, however, that *atte* in later ME. is often simply *at* misspelled; e.g. in "*atte ðe laste, tandem*." (1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 17.)

1. **Ale**, an alehouse. ME. *at then ale*, assimilated *atten ale*; taken as *at the nale*, *atte nale*. So *to then ale*, taken as *to the nale*.

- (a) Robin wule Gilot leden *to ðen* [var. *ðan*] *ale*,
And sitten per to-gederes and tellen heore tale.
a 1250 *A Lutel Soth Sermun*, l. 73. (*Old Eng. Misc.*, E.E.T.S., p. 190.)
Bidders and beggers faste a-boute eoden,
Til heor bagges and heore balies weren bratful I-crommet;
Feyneden hem for heore foode, fou3ten *atte alle* [*atte ale* B, *atten ale* C].
c 1362 LANGLAND, *Piers Plowman* (A), prol. 40.
- (b) Thenne seten summe and songen *atte ale* [*atte nale* B, *atten ale* C].
c 1362 LANGLAND, *Piers Plowman* (A), vii. 108.
I am occupied eche day, haliday and other,
With ydel tales *atte ale* [*atte nale* C] and otherwhile in cherches.
c 1377 LANGLAND, *Piers Plowman* (B), v. 410.
And they were glade to fille for his purs,
And maken hym gret festes *at the nale* [var. *atte nale*].
c 1386 CHAUCER, *Friar's Tale*, l. 50.
Chief chantours *at the nale*.
c 1400 *Plowman's Tale*, pt. 3, st. 22, v. 2. (Ritson, *A. S.* p. xxxiii.)
And thou goo *to the nale*,
As mery as a nyghtyngale.
c 1470 (?) *MS. Harl.* 4294. (Ritson, *l.c.*)

And so at length *nale* appears in other positions :

- And rather then they wyll not be as fine,
As who is finest, yea, as smoothe and slicke,
And after sit uppermost *at the wine*
Or nale, to make hard shift they wyll not sticke.
c 1568 THYNNE, *Debate between Pride and Lowliness* (Shak. Soc.), p. 53.
Nale. An ale-house. "Where's Bill? He's gone *to nale*."
1890 ROBERTSON, *Gloss. Glouc. Dial.* (E.D.S.), p. 101.

But *ale* also appears in its proper form, with the *n* of *then* dropt. See the examples from Langland above, and the following :

- When thei have wroght an oure ore two,
Anone *to the ale* thei wylle go.
a 1500 (?) *MS. Ashmole*, 61, f. 25. (H. p. 40, and 317.)
"What, when lords goe with ther feires," shee said,
"Both *to the ale* and wine."
Marriage of Sir Gawaine (Child, *Ballads*, i. 37).
Lau. . . . If thou wilt goe with me to the Ale-house : if not, thou art an
Hebrew, a Iew, and not worth the name of a Christian.
Spee. Why ?
Lau. Because thou hast not so much charity in thee as to goe *to the Ale*
with a Christian : Wilt thou goe ?
1623 SHAKESPEARE, *T. G. V.* ii. 5. 61 (F¹ p. 27).

To this cause we owe the modern form of several English surnames beginning with *n*. If John, or Richard, or William, or Walter livd at or near an ale-house, or at a stile or a gate or the end of a street, or at, or in a holt or wood or orchard, or at, or under a conspicuous tree, an ash, elm, oak, or other, or a group of oaks, these permanent

landmarks servd to identify to the rural mind, the otherwise uncertain or transitory John, or Richard, or William, or Walter, and *Fohn at then Ashe*, *Fohn atten Ashe*, *Fohn atte Nash*, *Fohn at Nash*, *Fohn a' Nash*, or *Fohn at then Okes*, *Fohn atten Okes*, *Fohn atte Nokes*, *Fohn a Nokes*, became at last *Fohn Nash*, or *Fohn Nokes*, and their descendants thus *Fohn*, *William*, *George*, *Henry*, *Tribulation*, and *Preserved Nash* or *Nokes*, unto endless generations ; while the original locativ ash-tree or oak-tree has fallen under the ax, or perhaps lingers on, in venerable age, in some English village, the unconscious eponym of a numerous race which, wandering from its ancient home, literally knows not its family tree.

I mention the surnames of this class group, and then in the alfabetic order of the original noun. First, surnames referring to conspicuous localities in the village ; and here first, of course, the drinking-place.

2. Ale, an alehouse. The case is identical with that mentiond before, in a more general connection. *Fohn at then ale*, *Fohn atten ale*, *Fohn atte nale*, *Fohn a' Nale*. I find mention of *Fohn Nail* and *Thomas Naile* (Bardsley, p. 578), *Robert Naile* (Lowndes). Both forms, *Nail* and *Naile*, appear in various directories.

3. End. The end of a street, especially of the one street of a village, is a conspicuous place, and very convenient in directing strangers. A man living there, named *Fohn*, would be known by his neighbors as *Fohn at then Ende*, *Fohn atten Ende*, and so we hear of *Fohn atte Nende*, and later of *Christopher Nend*. A more definit location of John appears in *Fohn attounsend*, now *Fohn Townsend*. We find also *Henry ate Tunesende*, *Adam ate Tuneshende*, *Alice ate Tunishende*, *Walter atte Towneshende* (Bardsley). Hence our modern *Townshends* with an *h*. So *William atte Streteshend*, *Fohn ate Bruge-ende*, and other "end" men (Bardsley).

4. Oven. The village bakery was a place of much resort, and the baker's oven, sometimes called an *ovenhouse* (c 1425 *Lat.-Eng. Vocab.*, in Wright, *Vocab.*² 670, l. 22), a landmark. We find *Thomas atte Novene* (Bardsley). Compare *a noven*, *a noon*, for *an oven*, *an oon* (I. A. 147).

A wood, grove, or orchard near a man's dwelling-place, makes it conspicuous to the eye and memory of the country round. Hence arose the surname *Atwood* (*Richard ate-wode*, *Adam Atte-wood*, etc.),

which does not involve our adherent *n*, and the surnames *Nolt* and *Norchard*, which do involve it.

5. **Holt**, a wood. *Fohn at then holte*, *Fohn atten Holt*, *Fohn atte nolt*, *Fohn a Nolt*, and so *Nolt*. The preposition and article have also fallen out entirely, leaving the simple form *Holt*.

6. **Orchard**. We find *Robert atte Norchard*, *Richard Atenorchard*. We also find *Richard atte Orcheyerd*, and so the simple *Orchard*.

A single conspicuous tree, or a clump of trees of the same kind, was a very common means of locating and surnaming the medieval Englishman. Besides the surnames *Alder*, *Ash* or *Ashe*, *Elm*, *Elms*, or *Elmes*, *Oak*, *Oaks*, or *Oakes*, from which the original preposition and article have entirely disappeared, we find parallel forms with the initial *n*, the last relic of the lost article.

7. **Alder**, dial. *aller*, *eller* (see I. A. 11). We find *Alice Attenalre* and later the surnames *Nalder* and *Nelder*.

8. **Ash**. The records mention *William atte Nasche*, *Pagan atte Nash*, *Sarra atten Eshe*. Hence the modern *Nash*. In some cases *atten ash* was reduced to *atte ash*, and finally emerged as the surname *Tash*.

9. **Asp**, dialectal *aps*, *esp*, *eps*, the asp-tree or poplar; now commonly in the originally adjectival form *aspen*. There is or was a farm in the Isle of Wight called *Apse* (H.). It seems probable that ME. *atten apse* has given rise to this name of a farm, and to the surname *Nabbs*, *Nabbes*, and perhaps also *Nabb*. For the form **abs* for *aps*, involved in the surnames, compare the dialectal *habs* for *habs* as developed from *abscess* (see I. A. 3). To the form *eps* is to be referred the surname *Epps*.

10. **Elm**. Some one living *at then elmes*, 'at the Elms,' was the ancestor of Mr. *Nelmes*, and Mr. *Nelms*, of whom I find various mention.

11. **Oak**. This sturdy Briton has a numerous posterity. There are *Oak*, *Oake*, and *Holyoake*, spelled also *Holyoke*; *Oaks*, also spelled *Oakes*. There are also *Snook* and *Snooks*, in whose unlovely-seeming names we behold the just fate of those who cut down *Seven Oaks*. Mr. *Sevenoaks*, who has spared the shades of his ancestors, still lives unvisited by Nemesis; but his place in Kent, *Sevenoaks*, pronounced *Sunnuck* by the natives (Halliwell, p. xxi.), slopes toward the humble

house of *Snooks*. In all these the original preposition and article hav disappeared. *Fohn atten oke*, *Richard attenok*, *Richard atte Noke*, *William atte Noke*, living near one oak, and *Fohn atten okes*, *Fohn atte Nokes*, *Fohn a Nokes*, living near several oaks, ar the fathers of such as answer to the name of *Noke* or *Noak*, *Nokes* or *Noakes*. *Fohn a Nokes* was once so numerous that his name became generic for a simple rustic :

Fohn a Nokes was driving his cart toward Croydon, and by the way fell asleepe therein. Meane time a good fellow came by and stole away his two horses, and went faire away with them. In the end he awaking and missing them, said, Either I am *Fohn a Nokes*, or I am not *Fohn a Nokes*. If I am *Fohn a Nokes*, then I have lost two good horses, and if I be not *Fohn a Nokes*, then I have found a cart.

1614 COPLEY, *Wits, Fits, and Fancies*. (N.)

The Lords should undoubtedly have considered themselves as bound by this opinion. That they knew Oates to be the worst of men was nothing to the purpose. To them, sitting as a court of justice, he ought to have been merely a John of Styles, or a *Fohn of Nokes*.

1859 MACAULAY, *Hist. Eng.* vol. v. ch. xiv.

But there never was a *Fohn of Nokes* nor yet a *Fohn of Styles* in the locativ sense. The preposition is *a* for *at*; easily confused, of course, with *a* for *o* or *o'* for *of*. Both of these surnames ar illustrated in the following line and its variations :

For sum tyme I seruede *Simme atte noke* [var. *Symme atte stile*, B, *Symme at the style*, C]. c 1362 LANGLAND, *Piers Plowman* (A), v. 115.

I notice on an English map a place cald *The Noke* near *The Holt*, in Hertfordshire, a few miles southwest of St. Albans.

12. Hole. There is another word of natural location to be noticed. A farm *at then Hole*, that is, in a little vale, or den, or dene, came to be cald *thun Hole* and finally *the Knoll*—a remarkable case of elevation. *Notes and Queries*, 5th Series, ii. 197. (P. p. 570.)

There is an other class of locativ surnames, derived from tavern signs and similar directiv emblems. Ins wer often named from the signs set up before them; and thus cocks, crows, cranes, swans, eagles, rams, goats, and other fearful wild fowl, depicted with a broad brush or chiseld with a free hand, servd to locate and surname "Hugh atte Cokke," "Thomas atte Ram," "John atte Gote," and other worthies otherwise mononymous. And not only birds and beasts, but hats, pots, hammers, axes, and other forms of applied art, did supernominal service.

A few cases, involving words with an initial vowel, come within the range of Attraction.

13. Ax. We find an ax, the Sign of the Ax, used to mark the location of a church opposit thereto, and becoming a part of its name — the church of St. Mary *at then Axe, atten Axe, at Naxe*, or in the normal modern form, St. Mary *at the Axe*.

- (a) Mary on the Hil, diocis London, patron Page of Dortford in Kent, gentilman . . . Mary *at Ax*, diocis London, patron priores of Seynt Helyns.

1502 *Arnold's Chron.* (1811), p. 251.

In Saint Mary streete had 'ye (of old time) a Parish Church of Saint Mary the Virgine, Saint Visula, and the 11000. Virgins, which Church was commonly called *S. Mary at the Axe*, of the signe of an Axe ouer-against the East end thereof, or Saint Marie Pellipara, of a plot of ground lying on the North side thereof pertayning to the Skinners in London. This Parish about the yeere 1565, was vnited to the Parish Church of S. Andrew Vndershaft, and so was *S. Mary at the Axe* suppressed, and letten out to bee a warehouse for a Marchant.

1618 Strow, *Survey of London*, ed. A[nthony] M[unday], p. 310.

- (b) The names and nombre of the perishe chirches in London. Seint Mary at the Bowe . . . Mary at the Hil, Mary *at Naxe*.

c 1502 *Arnold's Chronicle* (1811), p. 76.

And the same sign of the ax, variously located, has given name to the family of *Nax*.

14. Eagle. To some ancient host *atten Egle* ar due the modern surnames *Neagle, Naigle*, and, in part, *Nagle*. *Eagle* also exists as a surname. We read of "Gilbert de la Hegle" (Bardsley, *Eng. Surnames*).

15. Ox. Some "John *atten Oxe*," of whom I find no record, was probably the ancestor of Mr. *Nox*, whom I find mentiond in Bowditch's *Suffolk Surnames*.

16. Eye. In the same phrase *to then*, involvd in *to then ale*, etc., above, I find the explanation of the idiomatic expression, *to the nines*, in such phrases as 'drest up to the nines,' 'to paint, hit off, touch off, something, to the nines.' *To the nines* stands for earlier *to the nine*, *nine* being a disguised plural made obvious to the popular perception by adding the familiar plural sign -s. *To the nine* stands for *to then ine*, where *ine* (ME. *ine, ien, yen, eyne, eyen*, etc.) is the old plural of *eye* (see EYE, I. A. 87), and then the old dativ plural of *the* (ME. *then*, earlier *than, tham*, AS. *þam*). The phrase means 'to the eyes.' The proofs I hav found of the early use ar scant, but sufficient. The phrase *to þe eyghne* is found in ME. in the literal sense :

Huke nebyde as a hawke, and a hore berde,
And herede to þe hole *eyghne* with hyngande browes.

c 1440 *Morte Arthure* (E.E.T.S., 1865), l. 1082.

[*Hole* is 'hollow'; compare :

Hyr *enyn* wer holket and *holle*.

c 1420 *Anturs of Arthur*, ix. (Robson, *Three Metr. Rom.*, Camden Soc. p. 5).]

I find the very phrase *up to the ine* (*eine*), in the literal sense, but having the emphatic tone of the usual phrase *up to the nines*, in the sixteenth century. The wife of Auchtermuchty left her goodman at home to tend house and take care of the children. He found it no fun :

- (a) The first [bairn] that he gat in his armis,
It was all dirt *up to the ine*.
"The devill cut of thair handes," quoth he,
"That fild you all so fow this strene" [*thestreen* for *yestreen*].
a 1600 *The Wyf of Auchtermuchty* (Child, *Ballads*, viii. 120).

Instances of the attracted form emerge much later.

- (b) Thou paints auld Nature *to the nines*,
In thy sweet Caledonian lines. a 1796 BURNS, *Poem on Pastoral Poetry*.
He's such a funny man, and touches off the Londoners *to the nines*.
1821 GALT, *Ayrshire Legatee*, viii. (D.)
Gibbs hits aff a simple scene o' nature *to the nines*.
a 1843 WILSON, *Noctes Ambrosianæ*, i. 315. (P. p. 257.)
A blacked up 'is butes, an' a sheaved an' a drest
Proper *up to the noines* in his new Soonday-best.
1856 *Leicester Journal*, Aug. 1, quoted in Evans, *Leic. Words* (E.D.S., 1881), p. 35.
Nine, nines, s. Perfection; *to the nines*, *up to the nines*, to perfection, to the uttermost, in the grandest style; West of S.
1887 DONALDSON, *Suppl. to Jamieson*.
Nines. A man or woman extravagantly dressed is said to be "dressed up
to't nines." 1888 ADDY, *Sheffield Gloss*. p. 158.

Charles Reade uses the true form *to the nine*, but I suppose by misprint, or in accordance with one of his theories. He may have thought of *nine* as next to the perfection of *ten*.

He then put his hand in his pockets, and produced four beautiful sets of handcuffs, bran new, polished *to the nine*.

1858 CHARLES READE, *Never Too Late to Mend*, lxv. (D.)

The modern form of the phrase, *up to the eyes*, is familiar enough. It is parallel with *up to the ears*. A person may be "up to the eyes" or "up to the ears" in work, in det, in love, or some other unlucky plight.

He can, without hurting his conscience, praise the Spanish poor women
up to their eyes.

1877 H. J. ROSE, *Among the Spanish People*, i. 13. (P. p. 257.)

Palmer says that the West Cornwall folk have the phrase "dressed up for the nones," that they use *nines* for *nones* or *nonce*, and that "this is no doubt the real origin." But this is no doubt an error. Of course *nines* in this phrase does not mean "perfection," as Donaldson defines it. It means just "eyes."

The final -n of the ME. dativ *then* appears in another instance, where the original construction was different from that involved in cases before treated.

17. Once. ME. *ones, anes, ænes*, AS. *ānes, ānes*, of one, gen. of *ān*, one; used in ME. as an adverb, 'once,' and with a preposition as if a noun: *at ones*, at once; *for ones*, for once. So, *for than, forthan, for thon*, AS. *for þam, for þon*, for that, for this, therefor, therefore; *for than ænes*, later *for then anes, for then ones*, literally 'for that, once,' 'for that (occasion or purpose) in particular,' hence 'designedly.' It thus comes to mean 'for this one occasion,' but the *once* is not used exactly as in the modern colloquial phrase *for this once*, meaning 'for this one time.' With misdivision the phrase became *for the nones*, and with excrescent *-t* (as in *against, amongst, anenst*, etc.), *for the nonest*; and hence the modern phrase *for the nonce*, where *nonce* is commonly regarded as a noun, and so defined.

For the original form, compare the similar ME. phrase *for than one*, where *one* is the adverb (AS. *āne, āne*), with the adverbial suffix *-e* instead of the other adverbial (genitiv) suffix *-es*.

Anon so hi seȝe the monekes came, hi gonne to singe ymone
 Aȝen hem with gret melodie as hit were *for than one*.

c 1300 *St. Brandan*, p. 17.

This holi man made loudere song as hit *for than one* were.

c 1300 *St. Brandan*, p. 21.

Compare also the ME. phrase *at this ones*:

Wyl ȝe halde þis hes [erroneously corrected "hes[t]"] here *at þys ones*?
 c 1360 *Syr Gawayne and the Green Knight* (E.E.T.S.), l. 1090.

The origin and meaning of *for the nonce* have been so little understood that a considerable number of quotations is necessary to illustrate the phrase fully. I have collected a considerable number, but space permits only a few.

(a) A wlech beaȝ iwlaht *for þen anes* in forte beaȝien.

c 1200 *St. Juliana* (E.E.T.S.), p. 71.

(b) *Forr þe naness.*

c 1205 ORM, *Ormulum*, l. 7160.

I kan a noble tale *for the nones* [var. *nonys*].

c 1386 CHAUCER, *Miller's Prologue*, l. 18.

Who now most may bere on his bak at ons

Off cloth and furrou, hath a fressh renoun;

He is 'A lusty man' clepyd *for the nones*.

c 1400 OCCLEVE, *Of Priddy & of Waste Clothynge*, etc. (E.E.T.S., 1869, p. 107).

Uxor. I swelt.

Outt, thefys, fro my wonys!

Ye com to rob us *for the nonys*. c 1450 Towneley *Myst.* p. 112.

Take and put a welowe stoke in a forowe y-made in the erthe *for the nonys*, and lett hym growe then above.

a 1450 (?) *Porkington MS.* (Wr. p. 474.)

He fayned or made himselfe sicke *for the nonis*, deditā operā. He delayeth the matter *for the nonys*, de industriā. It is false matter deuysed *for the nonys*, deditā operā conficta.

1519 HORMAN, *Vulgaria*. (Way, *Pr. P.* p. 174.)

He is a popete fole, or a starke fole, *for the nonys*, homo fatuitate monstrabilis.

1519 *Id.*

- For the nonest*, de mesmes. 1530 PALSGRAVE, p. 835.
For the nones, a propos. A escient. 1530 *Id.* p. 865.
 You are a cooke *for the nones*, wyll you sethe these roches or haue you
 scaled them: vous estez vng cuysinier de mesmes, voulez vous cuire
 ces guerdons auant que les escalier. 1530 *Id.* p. 699.
 This dagger is sharpened *for the nones*: ce poignart est affillé teut a
 esciant. 1530 *Id.* p. 701.
 Though we have not expresse mention in Scripture, against such laying
 out of the haire in thussockes and tufts, yet we have in Scripture
 expresse mention *de tortis crinibus*, of writhen haire that is *for the nonce*
 forced to curle. 1552 LATIMER, *Sermons*. (N.)
For the nonest, I forbore to allege the learned sort, lest the unlearned
 should say, they could no skill on such books. 1563 PILKINGTON, *Works* (Parker Soc.), p. 644.
 There be also other like Epigrammes that were sent vsually for new yeares
 giftes or to be Printed or put vpon their banketting dishes of suger
 plate . . . and were made *for the nonce*. 1589 [PUTTENHAM], *Arte of Eng. Poesie* (ed. Arber), p. 72.
 As when we make our speach or wringies of sundry languages vsing some
 Italian word, or French, or Spanish, or Dutch, or Scottish, not *for the*
nonce, or for any purpose (which were in part excusable) but ignorantly
 and affectedly. 1589 *Id.* p. 259. [Similarly on p. 267, twice.]
 Apruoua, *for the nonce*, contending, striuing, vpon prooffe. Also to the
 vtmost. 1598 FLORIO.
 Our vizards wee will change after wee leaue them; and sirrah, I haue
 Cases of Buckram *for the nonce*, to immaske our noted outward garments.
 1623 SHAKESPEARE, *1 Henry IV.* i. 2 (F¹ p. 50).
 Oud women, loitering *for the nonce*, [Note: "For the Purpose."] 1806 BLOOMFIELD, *The Horkey* (*Wild Flowers*, p. 46).
Noonce. Purposely, — designedly, — for the purpose; generally in a bad
 sense. "'A did it *for the noonce*" or maliciously. It is archaic, but not
 used exclusively in a bad sense, as in Suffolk. . . . 1823 MOOR, *Suffolk Words*, p. 253.
 We giv the oo a full open sound — and variously pronounce the word
noonce, *noones*, and *noonst*. 1823 *Id.* p. 254.
Noonce. Purpose, occasion. "It'll serve for the nonce." Moor and Forby
 both state that it is always used offensively; not so with us. 1854 BAKER, *Northampton Gloss.* ii. 61.

But *nonce* does not mean "purpose, occasion."

B. Case in which an initial *n* of a word following *the* has been transferrd to *the*; by confusion with the cases above.

1. **Numbles**, ME. *numbles*, *nombles*, *nomblis*, *nomblis*, *nomblys*, *nombles*, *nowmbelys*, *nownbils*, *nowmelys*, *nowmyllis*, from OF. *nombles*, the entrails of a deer or other animal. The ME. *numbles*, *nombles*, denoting a passiv object, occurd chiefly in the objectiv, and especially in the dativ (*for the numbles*, *to the numbles*, etc.); and being preceded by *the*, which was in the dativ plural earlier *then*, it became entangled in the confusion which permitted *to then ale* to be taken as *to the nale* (II. A. 1), *to then ine* as *to the nine* (II. A. 16), etc.,

and so *for the numbles, to the numbles*, etc., came to be understood as *for then umbles, to then umbles*, etc., and so later *the umbles*, and finally *umbles* or *humbles* in any position. It might be supposed, and it has been said, that the loss of *n* in *umbles* was due to the influence of the indefinit article *a*; but the word was never actually used in the singular. The only instances of a singular which I find (*nowmel*, a variant reading in the *Prompt. Parv.*, 1440, and *a umblye*, c 1475 — see below) are evidently artificial, the latter due to conformity with the glosses *a long* (lung) before and *flank* following.

(a) & þat þay neme for þe *noumbles* bi nome as I trow.

c 1360 *Syr Gawayne and the Green Knight* (E.E.T.S.), l. 1347.

Take the *noumbles* of calf, swyne, or of shepe.

c 1390 *Forme of Cury*, p. 6. (P. p. 183.)

Nowmelys of a beest (*nowmbelys*, K. *nowmel*, H.). *Burbalia*, plur. vel *burbia*.

1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 360.

þe *nounbils* (*Nowmyllis*, A) of a dere; *burbilia*, *pepinum*.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 256.

Then dress the *numbles* first.

1486 *Book of St. Albans*.

Then he fette to Lytell Johan

The *numbles* of a doo.

c 1500 *A Lytell Geste of Robyn Hode* (Child, *Ballads*, v. 74).

Noumbles of a dere or beest, entrailles.

1530 PALSGRAVE, p. 248.

Nombles d' vn cerf. The *numbles* of a Stag.

1611 COTGRAVE.

Numbles.

1692 COLES; 1733 BAILEY; etc.

(b) *Tispatum*, an^{ce} *umbles*. c 1450 *Lat.-Eng. Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 616, l. 33).

Hoc burburium, ovmlyys.

c 1450 *Nominale* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 678, l. 15).

Hic pulmo, A^{ce} a long. *Hoc burbulum*, A^{ce} a *umblye*. *Hec elia*, A^{ce} flank.

c 1475 *Pictorial Vocab.* (Wright, *Vocab.*² 751, l. 19-21).

The *hombuls* of the dow.

a 1500 (?) *Brynging in the Bores Hede*. (P. p. 183.)

Lacy. What have you hit for breakfast? . . .

Mar. Butter and cheese, and *umbles* of a deer.

1594 GREENE, *Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay*, sub fin. (P. p. 183.)

Ventresca, an oxe-midrif, a calues pluck, a sheepes gather, a hogs hastlet, the *ombels* [1611 *umbles*] of a deare.

1598 FLORIO.

Humbles.

1671 SKINNER; 1733 BAILEY.

Umbles.

1733 BAILEY; 1847 HALLIWELL.

Hence *umble-pie*, a pie made of the *umbles* of a deer; for which "the old books of cookery give receipts" (Nares).

Mrs. Turner . . . did bring us an *umble-pie* hot.

16— PEPYS, *Diary*, ii. 266. (P.)

This *umble-pie* was also offerd in the form of *humble-pie*; assisting the mild wit which feignd that to "eat *humble-pie*" was to become "humble" and to "eat one's words." And indeed there be pies the eating of which, it is said, doth soon induce humility of spirit.

III. Cases involving *mine* or *thine*.

A. Cases in which the final *-n* of *mine* (ME. *min*, *myn*) or *thine* (ME. *thin*, *thyn*) has become attached to the following noun.

1. **Agate**, formerly *agot*, *aggot*, *agget*, etc., ME. *agate*, also *achate*. In an isolated case *mine agate cup* is written *my nagget cupp*.

(b) *My nagget cupp*. a 1592 (?) *Unton Inventories*, p. 32. (P. p. 581.)

2. **Ancestor**, ME. *ancestre*, *aunsestre*, beside *ancessour*, *auncessour*, etc., *ancetre*, *auncetre*, etc. (mod. dial. *anceter*, *anster*). ME. *myn* or *thyn auncestres*, *auncetres*, etc., appear sometimes as *my* or *thy nauncestres*, etc.

(a) Al were it that *myne auncestres* [var. *myn ancestres*] were rude.

c 1386 CHAUCER, *Wife of Bath's Tale*, l. 316. (Six-Text, D, 1172.)

Myne ancestres ware emperours.

c 1440 *Morte Arthure* (E.E.T.S., 1865), l. 276.

Myne aunsetters knyghtes have be.

c 1500 (?) *Robin Hood*, i. 10. (H. p. 112.)

As han al *thin aunceteres* or thow were bi-ge ten.

c 1360 *William of Palerne* (E.E.T.S.), l. 5133.

Of *thyne auncestres* [var. *þin* or *þine ancestres*] for here heigh bountee.

c 1386 CHAUCER, *Wife of Bath's Tale*, l. 304. (Six-Text, D, 1160.)

(b) [*My* or *thy*] *nawynsetres*.

Monastic Letters, p. 51. (Wright, p. 694.) (See H. p. 112.)

3. **Arm**, ME. *arme*, AS. *earm*. ME. *myn* (*thyn*) *armes* is sometimes *my* (*thy*) *narmes*.

(a) *Myn armes*, my lymmes, ar stark for eld. c 1450 *Towneley Myst.* p. 154.
And yf þou will ought ese *thyn arme*.

c 1430 *York Plays*, xviii. l. 197, p. 144.

(b) Leue lord, mi lemman, lacche me in *þi narmes*.

c 1360 *William of Palerne* (E.E.T.S.), l. 666.

4. **Ear^l**, ME. *ere*, AS. *zare*; see I. 58. In ME. *myn* or *thyn ere* (*eres*) is often written *my* or *thy nere* (*neres*).

(a) *Myn eres*.

c 1360 *Cleanness*, l. 689 (*Early Eng. Allit. Poems*, E.E.T.S., p. 58).

The stevyn of angelle voce it smote

And rang now in *myn ere*. c 1450 *Towneley Myst.* p. 82.

What speke ye here in *myn eres*? c 1450 *Towneley Myst.* p. 94.

The name of her sounded so sweete in *mine ear*.

Willow, Willow, Willow (Child, *Ballads*, iv. 239).

(b) Sone als be voyce of þine haylsing

Moght *myn neres* entre and be.

c 1430 *York Plays*, xii. l. 213, p. 100.

(a) Ayther has thou no wytt,

Or els ar *thyne eres* dytt. c 1450 *Towneley Myst.* p. 194.

To opyn þeyn *erys* to þi son In humanyte.

c 1485 *Mary Magdalene*, l. 905. (*Digby Myst.*, N.S.S., p. 89.)

(b) Helde *þi nere* to me and liþe.

c 1315 *Early Eng. Psalter*, Ps. xxx. 3. (Herrtage, p. 252.)

5. **Errand**, ME. *errand*, etc. (see I. A. No. 77). In ME. *myn* or *thyn errand* may appear as *my* or *thy nerrand*.

- (a) To wone any quhyle in þis won, hit watz not *myn ernde*.
 c 1360 *Syr Gawayne and the Green Knight* (E.E.T.S.), l. 257.
 (b) For be þis well sal i ha bide
 Quat o *mi nerrand* [var. *myne errande*, *mine erand*, *myn eronde*] mai
 be tide. *c* 1300 *Cursor Mundi* (Cotton ms.) (E.E.T.S.), l. 3274.

6. **Eye**, ME. *eye*, *e3e*, *ee*, *ye*, etc., pl. *eyen*, *e3en*, *een*, *yen*, etc. (see I. A. 80). *Mine* (*myn*, *myne*) or *thine* (*thyn*, *thyne*) *eye* (*eyes*, *eyne*, *een*, etc.), often appears *my* or *thy nye* (*nyes*, *nyne*, *neen*, etc.), a use extending to recent times.

- (a) Thou schalt na moore, thurgh thy flaterye,
 Do me to synge and wynke with *myn eye* [var. *myn ye*, *myne ey3e*].
 c 1386 CHAUCER, *Nun's Priest's Tale*, l. 609. (Six-Text, B, l. 4620.)
 Was never so sorowfulle a syghte seyne with *myne eghene*!
 c 1440 *Morte Arthure* (E.E.T.S., 1865), l. 3986.
Myn ees are worn bothe marke and blynde. *c* 1450 *Towneley Myst.* p. 154.
Myn vnstabill delinge is euer in *myn ee*.
 c 1485 *Burial of Christ* (Resurr.), l. 1228. (*Digby Myst.*, N.S.S., p. 212.)
 And salt teris distellyng frome *myne Eine*.
 1552 LYNDSEY, *Testament of the Papyngo* (E.E.T.S.), l. 186.
 I regarded not my comelynes in the May-moone of my youth, and yet now
 I stand prinking me in the glasse, when the crowes foote is growen
 vnder *mine eye*.
 1576 GASCOIGNE, *The Steele Glas*, Epis. Dedicatorie (ed. Arber), p. 43.
 (b) Þi frut i se be for *mi nei* [var. *my ney*, *myn eye*, *myn e3e*],
 Nou rek i neuer quen i dei.
 c 1300 *Cursor Mundi* (Cotton ms.) (E.E.T.S.), l. 5445.
 All that we declare I sye yt with *my nye*.
 c 1485 *Conversion of St. Paul*, l. 396. (*Digby Myst.* N.S.S., p. 42.)
 As y lift vppe *my nyes* that were sore of weping . . . I felte some dropys
 fallyng don to me.
 1486 *The Revelation of the Monk of Evesham* (ed. Arber),
 1196, p. 31. (P. p. 257.)
 Ah, Nan, steek th' winderboard and mack it dark;
My neen are varra sair, they stoun and wark.
 1697 *A Yorkshire Dialogue*, p. 49. (H. p. 813.)
 (a) *þin e3en* beoþ col-blake and brode. *a* 1250 *Owl and Nightingale*, l. 75.
 Fleand turn þou noght *þin ei* [var. *þine eye*, *þin e3e*, *þi ey*].
 c 1300 *Cursor Mundi* (Cotton ms.) (E.E.T.S.), l. 4311.
 Heve up *thyn eyen*, man, maystow not se ?
 c 1374 CHAUCER, *Tr. & Cr.*, v. 1159.
 Alas *thyn een* as cristalle clere. *c* 1450 *Towneley Myst.* p. 224.
 Thou hangmon, quo hoo, Ile poo out *thin een*.
 1847 *A Lancashire Ballad*, l. 36. (H. p. xxiii.)
 (b) Turn *thi nye*, that thou not se
 This wyccud worldis vanyte.
 c 1400 (?) *MS. Cantab.* Ff. 48, f. 1. (H. p. 584.)
 And wash thou *thi nyon* with that water.
 c 1420 *Chron. Vilodun.* p. 77. (H. p. 584.)

7. **Heir**, early mod. Eng. also *air*, *aire*, etc. See I. A. 86. ME. *myn* or *thyn ayr* (*ayre*, *eire*, etc.) appears as *my* or *thy nere*.

- (a)(b) "*Min air* [var. *myne ayre*, *mi ayr*, *myn eire*] þan wald i þat he war
 Sin þou me gaue na nover barn."
 "Nay," said vr lauerd, "i sal him warn
 þat he þi nere [var. *þine ayre*, *þin ayr*, *þin eire*] sal nocht be."
c 1300 *Cursor Mundi* (Cotton ms.) (E.E.T.S.), l. 2562.

8. **Ingle**, a favorite. *Mine ingle* gave rise to *my ningle*; common in the seventeenth century plays. Sometimes *mingle* (H.). Probably *an ingle* occurs as *a ningle*, putting *ningle* also in the class involving the indefinit article (I. A.); but I have not found *a ningle*.

Well, Tom, giue me thy fist, we are friends, you shall be *mine ingle*—
 I love you. 1608 ROWLEY (and FORD), *Witch of Edmonton*, iii. 2.

9. **Ore**, ME. *ore*, *are*, AS. *ār*, grace, favor. ME. *thyn ore*, *thin are*, as used in deprecation, occurs also as *thi nare*.

- (a) Lemman, thy grace, and, sweete bryd, *thyn oore* [var. *þyn*, *þin*, *þine ore*].
a 1386 CHAUCER, *Miller's Tale*, l. 540. (Six-Text, A, 3726.)
 They schall cry & syke sore,
 And say "lord, mercy, *thyn ore*!"
a 1400 (?) *Hymns to the Virgin*, etc. (E.E.T.S.), p. 119. (C.D.)
 (b) "Lauerd," said Abraham, "*þi nare* [var. *þin are*, 2 mss.],
 Sal þou þine auin sua-gat for-fare?"
c 1300 *Cursor Mundi* (Cotton ms.) (E.E.T.S.), l. 2749.

Swete Ysonde *thi nare*,
 Thou preye tha king for me.

- c* 1320 *Sir Tristram* (Sc. Text Soc.), l. 2135. (Donaldson, *Suppl.*, p. 312.)
 [Jamieson, 1808, prints *thinare*, and gives the quotation under "*thinare*, s.," defined in a note as "probably an intercessor, A.S. *thingere*." This error is repeated in the edition of 1880, with the addition of a formal definition, "Prob., advocate, intercessor."]

The knightes that in Calais were
 Come to Sir Edward sare wepeand,
 In kirtell one and sward in hand,
 And cried, "Sir Edward, thine are;
 Do now, lord, bi law of land,
 Thy will with us for evermare."

- 1352 MINOT, *Songs on Edward's Wars*. (Wright, *Polit. Poems*, 1859, l. 82.)
 [Wright mistakes this, and prints it "Sir Edward, thine [we] are."]

10. **Other**. See I. A. 130. ME. *myn other* is sometimes written *my nother*.

- (b) For seþþe i knowe þat mi siȝt is seruaunt to mi hert,
 & alle *my nother* wolnk wittes to wirchen his hest.
c 1350 *William of Palerne* (E.E.T.S.), l. 467.

On him'spild I my spere
 And mvculle of *my nothir* gere.

- c* 1420 *Avowynge of King Arthur*, iii. 10. (Robson, *Three Metr. Rom.*, Camden Soc., p. 58.)

11. **Own**, dialectal *awn*, *ain*, etc., ME. *owen*, *awen*, *auen*, *aȝen*, AS. *āgen*. *Mine own*, ME. *myn owen*, *myn awen*, Scotch *myne ain*, etc., appears as *my nown*, *my none*, *my nawn*, *my nain*, etc. So *thine own*, *thy nown*. And so *nown* before *his* and other words.

(1) *Mine own, my nown.*

- (a) Al sal be at *myn auen* [var. *myne awen, mine aun, myn owne*] weild.
c 1300 Cursor Mundi (Cotton ms.) (E.E.T.S.), l. 462.
 Of my hous, & my home, & *myn owen* nome.
c 1360 Syr Gawayne and the Green Knight (E.E.T.S.), l. 408.
 Forgeve it me, *myn owene swete herte*.
c 1374 CHAUCER, Tr. & Cr. iii. 1183.
 Elyzabeth, *myn awne cosyne*. *c 1430 York Plays*, xii. 197 (p. 100).
Myne aughen cosyne so dere. *c 1430 York Plays*, xii. 202 (p. 100).
 I am uttirly vndone in *myne awene landes*.
c 1440 Morte Arthure (E.E.T.S., 1865), l. 3967.
 It is *myn own* dere son. *c 1450 Towneley Myst.* p. 148.
Myn owne dere love, I see the proue that ye be kynde and trewe.
c 1502 Notte-browne Mayde, l. 157. (*Arnold's Chronicle*, repr. 1811, p. 203; Child, *Ballads*, iv. 156.)
 My tongue is *mine ain*, true Thomas said.
Thomas the Rhymer (Child, *Ballads*, i. 112).
 Well, then — I am not free to say that maybe I might not just slip into the King's hand a wee bit sifflication of *mine ain*.
 1822 SCOTT, *Fortunes of Nigel*, iii.
 (b) "Is he comun," he sayd, "*my nowun* true fere?"
c 1420 Sir Amadace, lviii. 1. (Robson, *Three Metr. Rom.*, Camden Soc., p. 50.)
 This is to me a perles pyne
 To see *myn nawe* dere childe þus boune.
c 1430 York Plays, x. 239 (p. 63).
 Than shall ye have my love, *my nawen* hony swett.
a 1500 The Pryorys and her Thre Wooyrs, l. 67. (R. Jamieson, *Pop. Ballads*, 1806, i. 256.)
My none gentyl Volontyn,
 Good Tomas the ffere.
a 1500 (?) MS. Harl. 1735, f. 48. (H. p. 907.)
 Cō hom' agayn', cō hom' agayne,
Mi nowne swet hart, com home agayne.
a 1500 (?) MS. Roy. Libr. 17 B. XLIII. (Ritson, *Anc. Songs*, p. lvii.)
 I conna thwole hur t' *meh nown* broother under o ginny, sed I.
 1750 J. COLLIER ("TIM BOBBIN"), *Lanc. Dial.* (1822), p. 17.
 Aft, whan I sang o' Peggy's jet-black een,
 Or play'd the charms o' *my nain* bonny Jean.
 1788 PICKEN, *Poems*, p. 19. (1880 Jam. iii. 339.)

(2) *Thine own, thy nown.*

- (a) pou art god, & alle gowdez ar graybely þyn *owen*.
c 1360 Patience, l. 286. (*E. E. Allit. Poems*, E.E.T.S., p. 100.)
 It es *thyn awene* skathe. *c 1440 Morte Arthure* (E.E.T.S., 1865), l. 1839.
 And he schalle be *thyn own* fere.
MS. Cantab. Ff. ii. 38, f. 241. (H. p. 954.)
Thyn awn pepill, þi *awn* flokke.
c 1485 Burial of Christ, l. 401. (*Digby Myst.*, N.S.S., p. 185.)
 (b) As alle *thi none* hit ware.
c 1420 Sir Amadace, lx. 9. (Robson, *Three Metr. Rom.* Camden Soc. p. 51.)
 Thowe wenes for thi wightenez the werlde es *thy nowene*,
 I salle wayte at thyne honnde wy, be my trowthe.
c 1440 Morte Arthure (E.E.T.S., 1865), l. 1806.

(3) *His nown, her nown, etc.*

Be his *nowne* white sonne.

1566 UDALL, *Ralph Roister Doister* (Arber), p. 12.

An effeminate foole is the figure of a baby . . . his fathers loue, and his mother's *none*-child. 1616 BRETON, *Good and Bad*, l. 13. (D.)

His Naunt Margary o Grinfilt, ot pleck where his *noun* moother coom fro. 1750 J. COLLIER ("TIM BOBBIN"), *Lanc. Dial.* (1822), p. 13.

There into th' hands of her *nowne* daddy

Having deliver'd her, thus sayd he.

1665 *Homer a la Mode*. (N².)

His nyawn, his own. Angus. 1866 JAMIESON.

"Troth, and ye hae guessed it," said Francie; "Jeest a cusin o' *his nain*, Miss Eveline Neville, as they suld hae ca'd her."

1816 SCOTT, *Antiquary*, xxix.

Here belongs the Highlanders' *her nainsell*, a circumlocution for *I*. It is used in burlesque with reference to a Highlander.

Hur skipt about, hur leapt about,

And flang amang them a', man . . .

But *hur-nane-sell*, wi many a knock

Cry'd "Furich-Whigs awa'," man . . .

Hur-nane-sell's won the day, man.

c 1689 *The Battle of Killcrankie* (July 27, 1689). (Child, *Ballads*, vii. 154, 155.)

Fu' bald can tell how *hernainsell*

Was ne'er sae pra before, man.

1745 ADAM SKRIVING, *The Battle of Tranent-Muir, or of Preston Pans*. (Child, *Ballads*, vii. 173.)

Her nainsel.

p 1745 *Author's Address to All in General*. (Quoted by Scott, *Pref. to Waverly*, 3rd ed., 1814, p. xxxix.)

Her nainsell has eaten the town pread at the Cross o' Glasgow.

1818 SCOTT, *Rob Roy*, xxviii.

"If *her nainsell* be hammer-man hersell, *her nainsell* may make *her nain* harness," replied Henry. "And so *her nainsell* would, and never fash you for the matter, but" . . . [etc.]

1828 SCOTT, *Fair Maid of Perth*, xxxiii.

This divisible *mine* or *thine* has affected the form of several household words which I group together.

12. **Aunt**, formerly also *awnt*, dial. *ont*, *oant*, ME. *aunt*, *awnt*, *aunte*, *awnte*, OF. *ante*. *Mine aunt* was often *my naunt*, *thine aunt*, *thy naunt*, and so *naunt*, dial. *nont*, *noant*, came to be used in other positions.

(1) *Mine aunt*, *my naunt*.

(a) Elezabethe, *myn awnt* dere,
My lefe I take at you here.

c 1450 *Towneley Myst.* p. 82.

(b) *My nawnte*.

a 1500 MARG. PASTON, in *Paston Letters*, iii. 78.

A will, dated 1553, among other bequests mentions: "Also to *my nawnt* Bygott an old angell of golde." The old angel, I need not say, refers to the coin, not the aunt.

1875 BARDSLEY, *Eng. Surnames*, 2d ed., p. 112.

Mr. Bardsley, by the way, is not only jocular himself, but givs cause for jocularly in others. In the same volume (p. 448) he says:

Queen Elizabeth had more obsequious adulation uttered to her face, and possessed more stomach for it, than any other royal person who ever *sat upon* or laid claim to a *crown*.

"Vneasia lyes the Head that weares a Crowne." Shakespeare says so, and no one who has tried to sleep with a crown on his head will deny his assertion. We now have another fact added to our store of knowledge. Uneasy sits the "royal person" who "sits upon a crown."

Eigh, so seys *meh naunt* Margit, un o meeny o folk.

1750 J. COLLIER ("TIM BOBBIN"), *Lanc. Dial.* (1882), p. 12.

Well, *my naunt* speaks truth in her old saw.

1823 SCOTT, *Peveril of the Peak*, xxvii.

(2) *Thine aunt, thy naunt.*

(a) (b) Ho is euen *byn aunt*

Arpurez half suster . . .

Perfore I epe þe, habel, to com to *þy naunt*.

c 1360 *Syr Gawayne and the Green Knight* (E.E.T.S.), l. 2464 and 2467.

(3) Hence *our naunt, his naunt, her naunt*, and *naunt* without any possessiv.

Our old Naunt Ellesmere will else give me but cold comfort when I come home.

1823 SCOTT, *Peveril of the Peak*, xxv.

Proo *naunt*, your mare puts, i.e. pushes. 1678 RAY, *Proverbs*, p. 79.

"*Naunt*," he said in dismay, "I doubt it is true what she says." . . .

"Nay, *naunt*, I shall not be slack."

1823 SCOTT, *Peveril of the Peak*, xxv. [So elsewhere.]

Nänt, s. Aunt. 1825 JENNINGS, *Somerset Gloss.* p. 56.

Coom, fy, fy, *naunt* Grace, coom, fy, an a doon.

1847 *A Lancashire Ballad*, l. 41 (also 45). (H. p. xxiii.)

Nont or *Noant*, sb. Aunt. 1888 ADDY, *Sheffield Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 160.

Naunt, sb. Aunt. Phelps gives *Naint*.

1890 ROBERTSON, *Gloss. of Glouc. Dial.* (E.D.S.), p. 102.

13. **Uncle.** With *mine aunt, thine aunt*, goes *mine uncle, thine uncle*; with *my naunt, thy naunt, my nuncle, thy nuncle*. So *nuncle* (formerly also *nunkle, nunckle*), in other positions, common in Shakespeare, and still existent in rural use. The urban use of *my uncle* is familiar to us all—in the newspapers of course. As *uncle* is in negro use abbreviated in address to *unk*, so we find *nuncle, nunkle*, familiarly abbreviated in address to *nunc, nunk* (H. p. xxvii.).

(1) *Mine uncle, my nuncle.*

I wol, quod she, *myn uncle* lief and dere.

c 1374 CHAUCER, *Tr. & Cr.* iii. 645.

"Why, *uncle myn*," quod she, "who tolde hym this?"

c 1374 CHAUCER, *Tr. & Cr.* iii. 842.

Nowe, as you are *mine unkle* deare.

a 1700 *King Arthur's Death* (Child, *Ballads*, i. 41).

(2) *Thine uncle, thy nuncle.*

For all the Treasure that *thine Vnckle* owes.

1623 SHAKESPEARE, *King John*, iv. 1 (F1 p. 14).

(3) Hence *nuncle* without a possessiv.

- How now *Nunckle*? . . . Marke it *Nuncle* . . . *Nunckle*, giue me an egge . . . I haue vsed it, *Nunckle* . . . Pry'thy *nunckle* keepe a Schoolemaster . . . I would not be thee *nunckle* . . . For you know, *Nunckle* . . . 1623 SHAKESPEARE, *King Lear*, i. 4 (F¹ p. 288).
 Kinred, *nuncles* and couzins. 1630 JOHN TAYLOR, *Workes*.
Nuncle, s. An uncle. To *nuncle*, to cheat. 1825 JENNINGS, *Somerset Gloss.* p. 57.
Nuncle, uncle. "*Nuncle* an naunt." 1876 ROBINSON, *Whitby Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 134.
Nuncle. 1888 ADDY, *Sheffield Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 161; 1890 ROBERTSON, *Gloss. of Glouc. Dial.* (E.D.S.), p. 105; etc.

14. **Eam**, the original English term for 'uncle,' stil existent in provincial use, undergoes the same change. *Mine eam* (ME. *myn eme*) becomes *my neam* (ME. *my neme*) ; *thine eam* (ME. *thyn eme*) becomes *thy neam* (ME. *thy neme*). In provincial use *eam* also means a friend, gossip, crony.

(1) *Mine eam*, *my neam*.

- (a) Bot for as much as 3e ar *myn em*, I am only to prayse.
 c 1360 *Syr Gawayne and the Green Knight* (E.E.T.S.), l. 356.
Eam, an unkle, *Bor*. This term in the North is familiarly applied to a gossip, and indeed to any friend or neighbor; so is the word *unkle* in Worcestershire and adjoining parts, where *mine unkle*, or *my nunkle* is a common appellation as *mine eam* in the North.
 a 1728 KENNETT, *MS. Lansd.* 1033. (Way, p. 139.)
Eam, or *eam*, "*mine eam*," my uncle, friend, gossip. 1855 [ROBINSON], *Whitby Gloss.* p. 51.
 (b) He ys *my neme*, y schalle the honge.
 a 1500 (?) *MS. Cantab.* Ff. ii. 38, f. 151. (H.)

(2) *Thine eam*, *thy neam*.

- (a) Šou dest ase [be] techet satanas þin *em*.
 c 1258 *Seinte Maregrete*, l. 127 (E.E.T.S., p. 38).
 þe dyvll of hell was þi *emme*.
 c 1485 *Mary Magdalene*, l. 1172. (*Digby Myst.*, N.S.S., p. 100.)
 [*Rebecca loq.* :] To my brother, and *thyn eme*,
 That dwellys besyde Jordan streme.
 c 1450 *Towneley Myst.* p. 44.
 Foreshowe the treasons of *thy wretched eame*.
 1600 FAIRFAX, tr. *Tasso*, iv. 49.
 (b) Tua doghters o Laban þi *nem* [var. *þine eme*, *þin eme*, *þin eeme*].
 c 1300 *Cursor Mundi* (Cotton ms.) (E.E.T.S.), l. 3789.
 Lo! Childe, he seid, this is *thy neme*.
 a 1500 (?) *MS. Cantab.* Ff. v. 48, f. 69. (H.)

The same change has produced a series of familiar forms of children's names beginning originally with a vowel.

15. **Ann** or *Anne*, formerly also *An*, ME. *Anne*, from OF. *Anne*, Latin *Anna*. *Ann*, cald by her father or mother *mine Ann*, and by their gossips *thine Ann*, came to be *my Nan*, *thy Nan*, and so *our Nan*, *her Nan*, and *Nan* without a possessiv. So the diminutiv

Annie, Nannie. *Nan, Nannie*, ar distinct from *Nancy*, with which they hav been confused. See *ANNIS*, the next word. The name *Ann, Anne* (OF. *Anne*, Lat. *Anna*) is derived from the name of *Saint Anne*, that is, Anna, the supposed mother of the virgin Mary, and Anna the prophetess. Douglas, in his translation of the *Æneid*, uses *An* with reference to Dido's sister *Anna*. All represent the Hebrew or Phenician *Hannah*.

There is a notion current among some persons that *Anne* should be pronounced in two syllables, *An'ne*. This is of course an error. *Anne* is merely an archaic spelling of *Ann*, which is itself an archaic spelling of *An*, which is common in the sixteenth century and later, and is the right modern form of the ME. *Anne*. *Ann* (*An*) is the shortest *full* form of an English name, in present use. But it is not much in use. The prettier *Annie*, the fair *Anna*, is preferd. Who could sing "Ann Laurie"?

- (a) And the womman was cald dam *Anne*.

Dame Anne. c 1325 *Eng. Metr. Homilies*, ed. Small, p. 156.
 Her sister *An*, sprettes almaist for drede . . . c 1430 [ms. 1592] *Chester Plays*, i. 191.

1513 DOUGLAS, *Eneados*, iv. 123, l. 45. (Heritage.)
Anne Page [ii. 1, p. 39, etc.] . . . *Anne* [iii. 4, p. 51, etc.] . . . Mistris
Anne [iii. 4, p. 51] . . . It is not *An Page* [v. 5, p. 60].

- 1623 SHAKESPEARE, *M. W. W.* (F¹ p. 39, etc.).
 1451-58 *York Wills.* (Oliphant, i. 288.)
 (b) *Lytell Nanne.* 1598 FLORIO.
Nanna, a word that women vse to still their children with, as we say
 lullabie. Also the name *Nanne*.
 [But the Italian *Nanna* has nothing to do with the English name *Nanne*.]
 Farewell gentle Mistris: farewell *Nan*.

1623 SHAKESPEARE, *M. W. W.* iii. 4 (F¹ p. 52).
Nan Page. 1623 *Id.* iv. 4 (F¹ p. 56).
Mist. Page. *My Nan* shall be the Queene of all the Fairies, finely attired
 in a robe of white.

Page. That silke will I go buy, and in that time
 Shall M. Slender steale *my Nan* away. 1623 *Id.* iv. 4 (F¹ p. 56).
My sweet Nan. 1623 *Id.* iii. 4 (F¹ p. 52), and iv. 6 (F¹ p. 57).
 Deare sister *Anne*, what dreames me thus molest?

I'll tell thee (*Nan*) . . . 1632 VICARS, tr. *Virgil*, bk. iv. (p. 87).
 But he call'd for the Lady *Nan*.
 1660 *O Anthony*, l. 12. (Ritson, *Anc. Songs*, p. 270.)
 And to the Lady *Nan* of Bullin. 1660 *Id.* l. 31, p. 271.

16. Annis, speld also *Annice, Annes*, the older form of the name *Agnes*; ME. *Annis, Annys, Annyce, Anneys*, from OF. *Anis* (Cotgrave), F. *Agnès*, Sp. *Ines*, Pg. *Inez*, It. *Agnese*, G. *Agnes*, from LL. *Agnes*, the name of a favorit saint. The name *Annis, Annes*, reverted to the Latin spelling *Agnes*, and is now pronounced with the g sounded. There is a mediate provincial form *Angnes*. The dictionaries say that *Agnes* is pronounced *Ag'nēz* (*ag'nīz*), implying that it is a Latin word pronounced according to the so-cald "English

method" of pronouncing Latin; but *Agnes*, as an English name, is, like *Moses*, Latin only in seeming, and is pronounced in English fashion, *Ag'nes* (*ag'ness*), in termination like *Mó'ses* (*mō'zess*). All the girls I ever knew named *Agnes* wer cald *Ag'ness*. The pronunciation *Ag'nēz* is one of the pernicious results of book-learning.

Annis, *Annice*, has also in part taken the form *Annie*, as if a diminutiv of *Ann*. So *Nannie* (see above).

(a) *Annys*, proper name (*Anneys*, P., *Annyce*, P.). *Agnes*.

1440 *Prompt. Parv.* p. 11.

Annes, the wyff of John Heth.

1556 HENRY MACHYN, *Diary* (Camden Soc.), p. 105.

The iiij day of January at nyght was serten feyres [seen] in Fynsbere feyld . . . and in gardens by mony men, and yt was sene at *Damanes Cler* and mo places. [Note: *Dame Agnes Clare*.] 1557 *Id.* p. 123.
Annis Foster . . . An Albright . . . *Annis* Snod.

1559 BRYCE, *Register* (Farr, *Select Poetry*, Parker Soc., i. 165).

Somewhat North from Holy-well is one other Well, curbed square with stone, and is called *Dame Annis the cleare*, and not far from it, but somewhat west, is also one other cleare water, called Perilous Pond.

1618 STOW, *Survey of London*, ed. A.M., p. 18.

Anis: f. *Annis*, or *Nanne* (a proper name for a woman).

1611 (and 1673) COTGRAVE.

Angnes. — *Agnes*, a form often found in 17th century parish registers, and sometimes, though rarely, heard in conversation.

1889 PEACOCK, *Manley and Corringham Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 12.

As the quotation from Cotgrave indicates, and the following quotations confirm, the name of *Annis* or *Agnes* was often confused with *Anne* or *Annie*.

The unfortunate maiden's name, according to Buchan (*Gleanings*, p. 197), "was *Annie*, or *Agnes* (which are synonymous in some parts of Scotland) Smith. . . ." CHILD, *Ballads*, ii. 190.

[This is a note to *Andrew Lammie*, where the heroin is "bonny *Annie*." See also quotation from Jamieson, below.]

Mine Annis, *thine Annis*, became *my Nannis*, *my Nanse* (*Nance*), *thy Nannis*, *thy Nanse* (*Nance*); and *Nanse*, *Nance*, *Nanze*, with the usual diminutiv, became *Nansie*, also speld *Nancie*, and now usually *Nancy*. With the disappearance of the form *Annis*, the connection of *Nancy* with *Agnes* was forgotten, and it came to be regarded as a diminutiv of *Ann* or *Anna*; and so all the dictionaries giv it. (So *Fack* is regarded, and given, as a familiar form of *Fohn*, whereas it is really another form of *Fake*, *Fack* being an old French, and *Fake* a modern English, abbreviation of *Facob*.)

(b) Lady *Nancie* [var. *Nanciebel*, p. 162, 163] died on Tuesday's nicht.

Lord Lovel (Child, *Ballads*, ii. 164).

An' drink his health in auld *Nanse* Tinnock's.

1786 BURNS, *Author's Earnest Cry and Prayer*.

Naething could resist *my Nancy*. a 1796 BURNS, *Farewell to Nancy*.

And it will be your best way, for thers sure news come frae Londoun that him they ca' Bang, or Byng, or what is't, has bang'd the French ships and the new king aff the coast however; sae ye had best bide content wi' auld *Nanse* [Queen Anne] for want of a better Queen.

1816 SCOTT, *Black Dwarf*, xvii.

Nancy, s. A name for *Agnes*, S.; although some view it as belonging to *Anne*. *Nannie* and *Nanze* are undoubtedly for *Agnes*, S.

1866 JAMIESON.

Nan, *Nannie*, *Nance*, *Nancy*, *Nanze*. Names substituted for *Agnes*, S.; although some view the first two as belonging to *Anne*. *Nannie* and *Nanze* are undoubtedly for *Agnes*, S.

1880 JAMIESON, iii. 341.

Nannie, *Nanny*. A familiar name for *Agnes*. V. *Nan*.

1880 JAMIESON, iii. 341.

Nance, or *Nan*, Ann; gen. If the person is old, *Naan'i* [*Nanny*] is employed.

1876 ROBINSON, *Mid-Yorkshire Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 88.

For the development of *Nancy*, diminutiv of *Nance*, *Nanse*, a contracted form of *Nannis*, *Annis*, compare the similar development of *Alsey*, *Ailsey*, *Ailsie*, *Ailcy*, *Elsie*, *Elsey*, *Elcy*, diminutiv of *Alse*, *Alce*, *Ailse*, *Else*, contracted forms of *Alice*, ME. *Alice*, *Alyce*, *Alys*, *Alis*, *Ales*. In *Betsy* (and *Tetsy*) the termination *-sy* is due to conformation, the regular diminutiv of *Bet*, *Beth*, for *Elizabeth*, being *Betty*.

17. **Ed.** In the same way *Ed*, the abbreviated form of *Edward*, *Edwin*, *Edmund*, was cald *mine Ed*, *thine Ed*, then *my Ned*, *thy Ned*, and so became *Ned* to everybody.

(b) *Ned*.

1567 HARMAN, *Caveat*, p. 79.

No abuse (*Ned*) in the world: honest *Ned* none. . . . No abuse (*Hal*;) none (*Ned*) none.

1623 SHAKESPEARE, 2 *Henry IV.* ii. 4 (F¹ p. 84).

In the vernacular we "raise *Ned*" as wel as Cain and Ebenezer.

It'll break up the Union, this talk about freedom,
An' your fact'ry gals (soon ez we split) 'll make head,
An' gittin' some Miss chief or other to lead 'em,
'll go to work raisin' promiscuous *Ned*.

1848 LOWELL, *Biglow Papers*, No. V. p. 186.

Hence the diminutiv *Neddy*, which has nothing to do with *neddy*, a fool, a donkey. See I. A. 70.

Neddy, that was wont to make
Such great feasting at the wake.

• 1772 BROWNE, *Shepherd's Pipe* (Wr. p. 223).

18. ***Ell.** So **Ell*, **Elle*, the unrecorded abbreviation of *Ellen*, *Ellin*, dial. *Illin*, *Eelin*, also *Helen*, *Hellen*, *Elinor*, *Ellinor*, *Elenor*, *Eleanor*, *Elnor*, *Elner*, came as *mine *Ell*, *thine *Ell*, then *my Nell*, *thy Nell*, to be *Nell* without a possessiv. And so *Nellie*, *Nelly*.

(a) *Alienora*, proprium nomen mulieris (*helena* A). 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 7.
Alianore, his wyff. a 1500 *Paston Letters*, i. 144. (Heritage.)

Queen *Hellen* shee did excell.

Robin Hood and Maid Marian (Child, *Ballads*, v. 372).

[*Helen* McGregor, also cald] *Ellen*. 1818 SCOTT, *Rob Roy*, xxxiv.
Illin, Eelin, Eleanor. 1859 DICKINSON, *Cumberland Gloss*, p. 56.
Elnor. — Eleanor. 1888 LOWSLEY, *Berkshire Words* (E.D.S.), p. 78.

- (b) And *Nelle* with hir nyfylys of crisp and of sylke,
 Tent welle youre twyfylys your nek abowte as mylke.
c 1450 *Towneley Myst*, p. 313.

And we vse the like termes by way of pleasant familiaritie, and as it were
 for a Courtly maner of speach with our egalls or inferiours, as to call a
 young Gentlewoman *Mall* for *Mary*, *Nell* for *Elner*: *Jack* for *John*,
Robin for *Robert*: or any other like affected termes spoken of pleasure.

1589 PUTTENHAM, *Arte of English Poesy* (ed. Arber), p. 228.
 And freckeled *Nel*, that never faild her master.

1634 FLETCHER (and SHAKESPEARE), *Two Noble Kinsmen*, iii. 5. 27.

O say you sae to me, *Nelly*?

And does my *Nelly* say sae?

Lizie Lindsay (Child, *Ballads*, iv. 65).

Nell, Nelly, s. Abbrev. of *Helen*, S. 1866 JAMIESON.

19. **Eps.** So the Scotch *Eps*, *Epps*, diminutiv *Eppie*, the shortend
 form of *Elsbeth*, *Elsbet*, *Elsbat*, which is itself a shortend form of
Elizabeth, has become *Neps*.

- (a) How brent's your brow, my Lady *Elsbat*?
a 1806 *Lady Elspat* (Child, *Ballads*, iv. 308).
Elspat McTavish [the name of the "Highland widow"].
 1827 SCOTT, *Highland Widow*.

To steal awa' *Eppie Morrie*.
a 1824 *Eppie Morrie* (Child, *Ballads*, vi. 260).

Eppie. 1814 SCOTT, *Waverly*, lxvii.
 Heaven Almighty forbid that *Epps* Ainslie should gie ony sick gentleman
 could well-water, and him in a fever. 1824 SCOTT, *Redgauntlet*, iv.

- (b) *Neps*, s. The abbrev. of *Elsbeth* or *Elizabeth*. Ramsay. 1866 JAMIESON.

20. ***Oll**. In like manner **Oll*, the unrecorded abbreviation of
Oliver (I hav herd the diminutiv *Ollie*), has come to be *Noll* (nomen
 regibus timendum).

- (a) *Oliver*, oliuerus, nomen proprium. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* p. 259.

- (b) Old *Noll* shall from the Shades descend,
 And teach the Wiggs obedience,
 E'er I for George's race contend,
 Or forfeit my allegiance.

c 1748 *The Loyal Resolution*, in *Eng. Jacobite Songs*, ed. Grosart, 1877, p. 21.

21. **Ursula**, contracted *Ursley*, and then probably reduced in baby
 speech to **Ursey*, **Ussey*, **Utty*, hence *Nutty*, either by the process
 above described (the name was once quite common), or by mere
 conformity (see next).

- (a) Dame *Ursula* . . . Dame *Ursley* as they called her.
 1822 SCOTT, *Fortunes of Nigel*, viii.
 (b) *Nutty*, a term of endearment; also a nickname for *Ursula*. 1857 WRIGHT.

By conformity with the preceding names thus initiald with *N*,
 rather than by the original process (for the names to be cited do not

appear to have been in familiar household use in the ME. period), the names of *Abraham* and *Isaac*, *Ambrose* and *Antony*, *Esther* or *Hester*, have been similarly altered.

22. Abe, short for *Abraham* or *Abram*, appears also as *Nab*.

(b) *Nab*, a by-name for *Abraham*.

1822 "TIM BOBBIN," *Lanc. Dial. Gloss.* p. 35.
Hal o' *Nabs*, q. Henry of Abraham's. 1822 *Id.* p. 34.

23. Ambrose, diminutiv *Amby*. Hence *Namby*. Ambrose Phillips wrote some pretty things which Henry Carey and Mr. Pope did not like. They therefore cald him out of his name, *Namby*, and, using the contemptuous reduplication seen in *niminy-piminy*, *nipperty-tipperty*, etc., *Namby-Pamby*, which name came to be applied adjectivly to poems childishly pretty.

(a) When William Timmes, *Ambrose*, and Drake . . .

1559 BRYCE, *Register* (Farr, *Select Poetry*, Parker Soc., i. 166).

(b) *Namby-Pamby*, or a Panegyric on the New Versification [title].

1729 HENRY CAREY, *Poems on Several Occasions* (3d ed.), p. 55.

[This poem is mentioned by Halliwell (*Popular Rhymes and Nursery Tales*, 5th ed., p. 144) as "a very curious ballad written about the year 1720."]

Namby Pamby's double mild,
Once a man, and twice a child . . .
Now *my Namby Pamby's* found
Sitting on the Friar's ground.

1729 *Id.* (Quoted by Halliwell, *l.c.*)

And *Namby-Pamby* be preferr'd for wit.

1729 POPE, *Dunciad*, iii. 322 [surreptitious edition].

Lo! *Ambrose Phillips* is preferr'd for wit.

1729 *Id.* iii. 326 [acknowledged editions].

The pieces that please best are those for which Pope and Pope's adherents procured him the name of *Namby-Pamby*, the poems of short lines, by which he paid his court to all ages and characters—from Walpole, 'the steerer of the realm,' to Miss Pulteney in the nursery. The numbers are smooth and sprightly, and the diction is seldom faulty. They are not loaded up with much thought; yet if they had been written by Addison, they would have had admirers. Little things are not valued but when they are done by those who can do greater.

1781 JOHNSON, *Lives of the Poets*: Ambrose Phillips.

24. Antony, contracted *Ant'ny*, *Anty*. Hence *Nanty*.

(a) Nettlebed *Anty*, Peter Tom Willy, Peed Jack.

1876 ROBINSON, *Mid-Yorkshire Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. ix.

(b)

Nanty Panty, Jack-a-Dandy,
Stole a piece of sugar-candy.

1729 HENRY CAREY, *Poems on Several Occasions*. [Quoted by Halliwell: see under No. 23.]

[The above is associated with various nursery rimes, but *Nanty* finds its source in *Antony*.]

"And now," said Trumbull, again, "I pray you to tell me by what name I am to name you to *Nanty* (which is *Antony*) Ewart?"

1824 SCOTT, *Redgauntlet*, xiv.

At the same time he introduced Mr. *Antony*, or *Nanty* Ewart, whose person, though he was a good deal flustered with liquor, was different from what Fairford expected. 1824 *Id.* xiv.

25. *Etty*, *Ettie*, a familiar form of *Esther*, and *Hetty*, *Hettie*, also used as a familiar form of *Esther* (tho properly belonging to *Hester*, the aspirated form of *Esther*), appear also as *Netty*, *Nettie*. All the forms *Etty*, *Ettie*, *Hetty*, *Hettie*, with *Etta* and *Hetta*, are also used as diminutives of *Henrietta*. *Hettie* is also used, I am told, as a diminutive of *Mehetabel*, *Mehitable* — which do seem to call for diminution. *Nettie* has also been used as a diminutive of *Annette*, and, in one instance within my knowledge, of *Fanet*.

- (a) The judge spoke: "*Hester* Sorrel." . . . The blood rushed to *Hetty's* face. 1859 MARY ANN EVANS ("George Eliot"), *Adam Bede*, xlv.
 (b) *Netty*. *Esther*. 1876 ROBINSON, *Whitby Gloss.* (E.D.S.), p. 131.

26. *Ike*, *Ikey*, diminutive of *Isaac*, appears also as *Nikey*.

- (a) *Ike*. *Isaac*. 1859 DICKINSON, *Cumberland Gloss.* p. 56.
 (b) *Nikey*, a diminutive of *Isaac*. 1796 GROSE, *Dict. Vulgar Tongue*. [See under HICKON, No. 95.]

This explanation of the names *Nan*, *Nancy*, *Ned*, *Nell*, *Noll*, etc., is, I believe, new. The *n* is usually explained as merely "prosthetic," or as if "prefixt" by a conscious act. Mr. Oliphant, for example, says:

It is curious that an *n* is often prefixed to shortened names in English, as *Ned*, *Nan*, *Noll*, for *Edward*, *Anne*, and *Oliver*. 1886 OLIPHANT, *The New English*, i. 199.

B. I find two instances in which initial *n* after *mine* or *thine* is lost.

1. **Nation.** *My nation*, pronounced dialectally *my netion* (compare *nurrection* for *narration*, *observetion* for *observation*, etc., *Gloss. of Glouc. Dial.*, E.D.S., p. 206, 208), appears to have been taken as *mine *ation*, dialectally pronounced *etion*:

- (a) [Captain Fluellen and Captain Mackmorris loq.:]
Welsh. Captaine Mackmorrice, I thinke, looke you, vnder your correction, there is not many of your Nation.
Irish. Of *my Nation*? What ish *my Nation*? Ish a Villaine, and a Basterd, and a Knauc, and a Rascall. What ish *my Nation*? Who talkes of *my Nation*? 1623 SHAKESPEARE, 1 *Hen. V.* ii. (*Sic* in F¹ p. 78).
Nashun or *Nation* . . . one's own town or neighborhood. A lad was lately hired out of the parish of Alderton near the sea; and for the first time crossed the intervening heath, of several miles in extent, to enter his service at Woodbridge. The boy, under a strong feeling of nostalgia, was wretched: and to the enquiries of his fellow servants could only say, "I fare to be out of *my nashun*," — the first syllable long and modulated. 1823 MOOR, *Suffolk Words*, p. 244.

Moor notes that *native*, pronounced *na-tive'*, is also "used pretty much as *Nashun*." The "long and modulated" pronunciation of the first syllable opens the way to **netion*.

- (b) Bat thus in counting *my etion*
I need na mak sic din,
For it's well kent Achilles was
My father's brither sin.

1785 *Poems in the Buchan Dialect*, p. 4 (1808 Jamieson).

Jamieson enters "*Etion*, s. Kindred, lineage, S.B.," and suggests a connection with "Isl. Su. G. *aett*, *ett*, family," etc. Like many others before and since, Jamieson was not strong in etymology, but he was violent.

2. **Nevening**, ME. *nevening*, also *nemning*, *nemnunge*, *nemmunge*, AS. *nemnung*, naming. ME. *thin nevening* appears as *thin evening*.

- (b) Wel bruc þu þin *evening*. c 1300 *King Horn* (E.E.T.S.), l. 206.

The following examples show how *my* and *thy*, *myn* and *thyn*, would alternate in the same line :

Alas! *my* covetyse, *myn* ylle wille, and *myn* ire.

c 1450 *Towneley Myst.* p. 306.

Ferre fro *thi* garth, *thyne* orchard, and *thi* vynes.

c 1420 *Palladius on Husbandrie* (E.E.T.S.), i. 1003.

IV. Cases in which the final *-n* of *none* (ME. *non*) has become attacht to the following noun.

1. **Ay**, an egg. ME. *ay*, *ey*, *eiȝ*, etc. See I. A. 54. In ME. *non ay* (*eye*, *eiȝ*) appears as *no* (*naie*, *nay neiȝ*).

- (a)(b) þan fond he nest and *no neiȝ*, for nouȝt was þer leued.

c 1360 *William of Palerne* (E.E.T.S.), l. 83.

And after token her cours and wenten her way,

Tho fond þe scherreue nyst, but *none eye* [var. *non ay*, *noon eye*, *noon ay*,
non aye, *no naie*]. c 1400 *Gamelyn*, l. 609. (Six-Text.)

The form here is obviously influenced by the alliteration, which is especially suited to the proverb. 'The bird had flown.'

2. **Other**. *None other* (ME. *non other*) is often found divided as *no nother*, from early ME. to modern times. Compare *a nother* for *an other* (I. A. 143), and *my nother* for *myn other* (III. A. 10).

- (a) Ne canne [read *can he*] ðan *non oðer*.

c 1230 *A Bestiary*, l. 658. (*Old Eng. Misc.* (E.E.T.S.), p. 21.)

Pam likes now *nan oþer* [var. *non oþer*, *noon oþer*, *na oþer*] gle.

c 1300 *Cursor Mundi* (Cotton ms.) (E.E.T.S.), l. 54.

And þat mai be *nanoper* [var. *nan eoper*, *nan oper*, *noon opere*] wis. . .
c 1300 *Id.* l. 2887.

And now is here *none other* gate
Bot Godes howse and hevens yate.

c 1450 *Towneley Myst.* p. 46.

That noo cordewener nor *none other* to his use sholde occupye the mysterie
of a tanner while he occupied the mysterie of a cordewener. . .

1489 *Stat. Hen. VII.* (Caxton), p. 5.

I have *none other*, sayd the knyght,
The sothe for to say.

c 1500 *A Lytell Geste of Robyn Hode* (Child, *Ballads*, v. 56).

VVhen baylifes strain *none other* things but strays.

1576 GASCOIGNE, *The Steele Glas* (ed. Arber.), p. 80.

(b) Min air þan wald i þat he war,

Sin þou me gaue *no noþer* [var. *nane oper*, *non oper*, *noon oper*] barn.

c 1300 *Cursor Mundi* (Cotton ms.) (E.E.T.S.), l. 2562.

"And, fader, es þar *nanoper* [var. *non oper*, *nan oper*, *noon opere*]?"

c 1300 *Id.* l. 3755.

"Her es *na noþer* þing," said he,

"Bot godds hus and heuen entre." c 1300 *Id.* l. 3801.

Sepþe *no noþer* nel be but nedes to wende.

c 1350 *William of Palerne* (E.E.T.S.), l. 1679.

Sir, I tolde you trouth, trist yee *no noother*.

c 1375 *Alisaunder* (E.E.T.S.), l. 489.

No mai ther go *no nother* gile

To bring that traitour doun?

c 1420 *Amis and Amiloun*, l. 950 (Weber, *Metr. Rom.* ii. 409).

Josua also, though he were *no nother* than a civil magistrate. . .

1564 JEWEL, *Apology* (Parker Soc.), p. 98.

V. Case involving the conditional conjunction *an*, if. *An* if is reduced to *nif*; very common in provincial use.

(a) No, no, my heart will burst, *and if* [mod. edd. *an if*] I speake.

1623 SHAKESPEARE, 3 *Hen. VI.* v. 5 (F¹ p. 171).

(b) *Nif* tha beest a Zend to Vield wi tha Drenking or ort, to tha Voaken.

1746 *Exmoor Scolding*, l. 196 (E.D.S.), p. 46.

Nif he'd a pumple voot bezide,

An a brumstick vor'n to zit ascride.

1825 JENNINGS, *Somerset Gloss.* p. 118.

An *nif* zaw be thâ'll please to hear

A'll gee zum moor another year. 1825 *Id.* p. 178.

Nif. If. *Somerset*.

1847 HALLIWELL. (For examples see p. xxvii, xxviii, etc.)

But there is another *nif* or *nyf*, a ME. contraction of *ne if*, if not, unless, except.

Ofte hit roled on-rounde & rered on ende,

Nyfoure Lorde had ben her lodez-mon, hem had lumpen harde.

c 1360 *Early Eng. Allit. Poems* (E.E.T.S.), l. 423.

Gret perile bi-twene hem stod,
Nif mare of hir knyght mynne.
c 1360 *Syr Gawayne and the Green Knight* (E.E.T.S.), l. 1768.

VI. Case involving the preposition *in* (*an*, *on*, *en*-).

In *aunter*, *an aunter*, *on aunter*, also *in aunters*; also written as one word, *inaunter*, *inanter*, *enaunter*, *enanter*, *anaunter*, *ananter*, *anawnters*, *anantres*, *ananthers*, *enanthers*, *anauntrins*; also with the preposition *dropt*, *aventure*, *awnter*, *aunters*, *anters*, *anthers*, *aunterens*; all meaning 'peradventure,' 'in case that,' 'for fear that,' being parallel to *peraunter*, *paraunter*, a brief form of *peraventure*, now *peradventure*. We find in provincial use *nanterscase*, 'in case that,' a beautiful combination of *in anters* and *in case*.

- (a) Ac *aventure* for the fyght,
 This victorie is the y-dyght.
c 1300 *Kyng Alisaunder*, l. 3922. (Weber, *Met. Rom.* i. 162.)
 So I seid, *anaunter* whanne my enemys be to glade over me.
Psalms and Prayers: Ms. Hunt. f. 38, v^o. (Wr. p. 130.)
 For longe durst he not abyde,
Inaunter if men woll seyne.
c 1393 GOWER, *C.A.* f. 48. (Wr.)
 Anger would let him speake to the tree,
Enaunter his rage mought cooled bee.
 1579 SPENSER, *Shep. Cal.*, Feb.
Anauntrins. Peradventure, if so be. *Northumb.* 1790 GROSE, *Prov. Gloss.*
Ananters, *Anauntrins*. If so be. 1828 [CARR], *Craven Gloss.* i. 8.
Ananters he does lick us, and naabody knaws how an arrow may glent,
 he'll tuck up aw our Volunteers be ther gallowses, i' iv'ry tree he comes
 at, thou'll see 'em flackerin' about like flay-craws. 1828 *Id.* ii. 299.
Ananthers, *Anthers*, or *Enanthers*, lest, or for fear. "I'll take my cloak,
ananthers it should rain." 1855 [ROBINSON], *Whitby Gloss.* p. 4.
 (b) *Nanterscase*. In case that. *North.* 1847 HALLIWELL.

VII. Besides the preceding classes, involving a transfer of a radical *n*, there is a number of words in which final *n*, formativ or inflexiv, casually goes over to the following word.

- I sai a selkoupe sijt mi-self *zister neue* [printed *zifter neue*],
 Wel wiþinne niȝt as i went in þe gardyn.
c 1360 *William of Palerne* (E.E.T.S.), l. 2160.
 [Read *zistern eue*, 'yestern eve.']
 Prestis seien *nyȝe masse*.
a 1384 WICLIF, *Unprinted Works* (E.E.T.S.), p. 336.
 [Read *seien hyȝe masse*, 'say high mass.' The initial *n* may be a mere scribal error, a repetition of the preceding *n*.]

It will be noticed that in some cases the final *n* spreads, or undergoes gemination, retaining its place as final, and also taking a place as initial. Examples are *an nape* (I. A. 24), *an nute* (I. A. 86), *myn neres* (III. A. 4), *myn nawe* (III. A. 11). This occurs also with other continuants. The opposite change, the reduction of two like consonants adjacent, final and initial, appears in *an nadder*, *a nadder*, *an adder*; *an numpire*, *a numpire*, *an umpire*, etc. These facts have a bearing on other, more occult, cases of Attraction, which I must adjourn unto another day.